

VOL. 2 No. 10 OCTOBER, 1960

25 MONTHLY

# SECURITY GAZETTE

Security News Crime Prevention Fire Protection Industrial Safety



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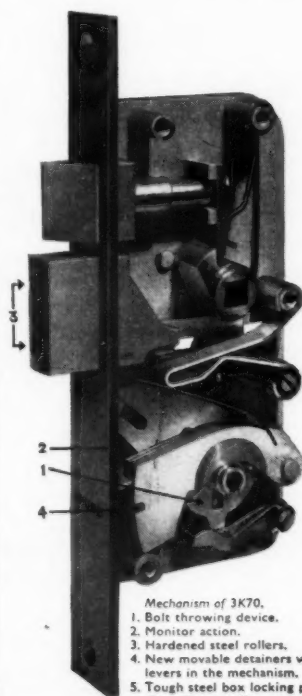
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**COVER PICTURE:** *Closed circuit T.V. opens up new developments in the security supervision of factories, approaches, and key points in buildings. It will be used also to control movement in the new prison to be built at Blundeston in Suffolk. This picture shows a battery of industrial sets at the Port Talbot works of the Steel Company of Wales. Marconi's Wireless Telegraph Co. picture.*

## Defeating the Gangs

**F**RIDAY, the 23rd September, was a black day for the forces of law and order in the London area. The event to make the headlines was the haul of some £33,000 by a gang operating with military precision. Being a success against a security department, and also being reinforced by half a dozen other coups, it led to B.B.C. interviews, front page treatment, stories of "baffled" officers, and a top-level Scotland Yard conference. The elements are here of a conventional thriller—which is how some sections of the public might unfortunately regard it. But the cumulative effect of the day is so serious that it should lead to some realistic thinking by all concerned with security. It would be deplorable if the impression were to gain still further strength that the gangs are able to operate with impunity and that society is at the mercy of organised banditry. The battle to improve security in this country is difficult enough without any feelings of defeatism growing; and one must sympathise immediately with the Yard. Coming after the insults and provocations of the St. Pancras rent riots, these gangster incidents could only sorely add to the Force's burdens.

The point that should be frankly made is that these raids were not successes against the type of security measures which can be effectively practised according to modern standards and techniques. As we go to press the suggestion is being made that pay hauls succeed because of inside information. But even if this is a factor—and one that deserves close study by security sections—it can be largely neutralised by professional knowledge. A rammed vehicle, for instance, can be immobilised by the flick of a finger. Its body, doors, and windows can be so protected as to withstand, or at least seriously delay, even a full-scale attack. (A recent article in the *Gazette* by a Chief Security Officer gave a description of suitable methods.) Vehicle cash safes and alarms are available to provide a further line of defence. And no cash-carrying vehicle need be without the means of summoning rapid assistance through radio communication—the basis of the Industrial Police Association's Birmingham emergency scheme and of the cash transporting companies' methods. Had all or some of these defensive techniques been employed in a number of recent cases, the attacks would probably have failed.

This is something which the public does not always understand, nor is it appreciated that huge sums of money are carried in safety every day. It is when security measures are not fully implemented that the raids come off and an atmosphere of fear and near panic is encouraged.

For this reason the attacks on the mail vans on the Brighton line have a particular significance. That a train can be stopped by interference with the signals,

that railway officials can be assaulted, and the country's mails be stolen, amount to nothing else than a public scandal. And the public can also be excused if they think that the G.P.O. and British Railways have fallen down on their jobs. That the authorities are facing a situation of unprecedented character is, perhaps, not equally appreciated, but that is a point those who carry responsibility have to endure. It is, however, regrettable that the G.P.O. has in the past met criticism with soft Parliamentary answers. The warning was given in these pages a year ago that the Post Office would be unwise to hope that a recession in the crime wave would see it through the crisis. Now the Brighton and Barnstaple episodes can only lead to a suspicion that a radical overhaul is required of joint G.P.O. and British Railways security. Admittedly to equip the whole of the rolling stock with strong rooms and alarms will be a formidable task, though other security methods could, to some extent, be used. But what is the alternative to facing up to the defects of the present position? Surely it is to expect that the success of past raids will lead to others in the future.

What then are the lessons to be gained from the experiences of the past month, or really of the past year? Perhaps the first is to acknowledge that the new type of criminal can be matched only by a new approach to crime prevention, an approach which will require far better methods of co-operation between the different sections of the prevention and security movement. A blow struck, for instance, at the railways is a blow struck too at the prevention campaign of a Police Force. At the moment there is a tendency towards a form of "departmentalism" in prevention with industrial security sections working in isolation from the public forces. They should be the first line of approach in a campaign.

The second lesson revives the part which could be played by the insurance companies. So far they have stood apart from the crime prevention struggle, yet it is not to be doubted that their immense influence could go far to improving security throughout industry and commerce as it has already done on the more specialised fire side.

It has been pointed out before that prevention schemes, and, indeed, security measures as a whole, must look to long-term benefits. That still remains true. But it does not preclude the need for also seeking the realisation of more immediate aims. At the moment a gang of work-shy young men may well consider there is little hazard in seeking to get away with £10,000 from a bank or pay-day raid. Such a situation is an indictment of the nation's security structure and a continuing source of encouragement to the criminals. It is a situation demanding action from the highest level.

# FILMS IN CRIME PREVENTION

## I: Development as Publicity Medium

By Thomas Fawcett

**F**EW public services depend more on public co-operation than the police. Depleted manpower, rising crime, and the continual flow of new legislation make police administration increasingly difficult, and anything likely to improve understanding between police and public deserves consideration."

I made that comment in an article in 1952. But it is still largely applicable today, and it is therefore pleasing to see that the worth of films in police work is at last being more generally recognised.

It has taken a long time, for although there were a few enterprising examples of films being used in crime detection at Bradford, Chesterfield and Liverpool in the thirties, it was not until after the war that there was any wide interest in their possibilities.

### Pioneer Work on Accidents

Most police authorities then regarded film projectors as unnecessary luxuries, but when the first National Road Safety Campaign was launched in 1946, any aid to accident prevention work ranked for Ministry of Transport grants. Consequently, several Forces, including my own, invested in 16 m.m. film projectors for road safety teaching and started giving free film shows—viewers ranging from City Councils down to schools and social organisations.

Fortunately, there was then a free loan service from the Central Film Library, whose stock included several good accident prevention films. These were used repeatedly, and eventually it was realised that crime prevention and recruiting were equally suitable fields for film propaganda. The Crown Film Unit produced some excellent "shorts"—*Man on the Beat*; *Routine Job*; *County Policeman*; *English Justice*; etc.—which are still available, but unfortunately the Crown Film Unit perished in one of the successive economic crises.

Civil Defence training was

another sphere in which films were extremely helpful, and many Police Forces began using films on the atom and hydrogen bombs, rescue from crashed aircraft, fire fighting, etc., in their warden training programmes.

### Films "All The Rage"

Soon other branches of the Service showed interest and from being regarded as "Road Safety Stunting", film projection work became embarrassingly popular. The training officer, for instance, discovered that film shows eased his lecturing work; the head of the transport department demanded film shows on vehicle maintenance; and, after some initial prejudice that the films might disclose useful information to lawbreakers, the C.I.D. chiefs recognised that the crime investigation films made by Scotland Yard and some of the larger provincial forces were helpful both to police officers and the public.

Gradually the field extended until we were providing film shows at exhibitions, galas, or schools, and I also obtained permission to convert an old police van into a mobile cinema which enabled daylight film shows to be provided in parks and other open spaces.

The article which I have quoted, actually in the *Film User*, was entitled "Projectors for Policemen" and the Editor's brainwave in circulating copies to Chief Constables greatly increased police interest in film work.

Inevitably demand outstripped supply, and some enterprising Forces then started their own film production. If they did not approach commercial standards they proved the worth of 16 m.m. projection, and quality steadily improved as police producers learned the virtues of drastic editing and crisp commentaries!

### A Police Record

Among the Forces which deserve particular mention in this respect are Lancashire, Birkenhead, York-

shire West Riding, Cambridge, Hull, Huddersfield, and Buckinghamshire. Most of them concentrated on road safety work, but the Huddersfield productions, "Careless Security" and "From One Uniform to Another," were particularly effective.

Buckinghamshire and some other Forces started filming notable police events, Royal visits, large shows, major football matches, etc., which made excellent material for training, as well as interesting records.

Another useful step was the compilation of a catalogue of police films at the Police College, following the report of the 1956 Working Group on Crime Prevention, which approved the use of films and slides in propaganda and suggested national films on crime prevention.

### Filmed Evidence

In view of all this progress, it is curious that films have not been more generally used in the most useful sphere of all—the actual prevention and detection of crime. But the innate conservatism (and the idiosyncrasies of some Benches) have been difficult obstacles.

Nevertheless, there are ample precedents for film evidence in criminal cases as well as in the civil courts, and other countries have not been slow in exploiting the new aid. A review of their enterprise would require a full length article; I will summarise by saying that films are now universally recognised as a valuable aid in crime prevention and detection; training; recording; identification; traffic research; accident prevention; fire fighting; and many other branches of police and security work.

One of the most interesting exhibits at the International Police Exhibition at Essen in 1957 was the display of films and film equipment for police activities. It proved beyond question that although "A word in the ear is often better than a speech" a picture, especially a moving one, is better than either!

# Bucks Police Make Own Film

## 2: Its Use in Crime Prevention

By Det. Supt. E. M. Fewtrell

The crime prevention policy of the Chief Constable of Bucks., Brigadier J. N. Cheney, has always been that it is an integral part of police work and is to be treated as such rather than to be the subject of periodic campaigns. He realises that tactful and courteous crime prevention approaches bring a favourable public reaction, and in Buckinghamshire there has been a significant improvement in public co-operation.

For many years now we have used the normally accepted mediums in crime prevention work—talks by police officers supplemented by plenty of literature; but it was soon appreciated that illustrated literature was making a much greater impact on the public than the mere printed word. We are fortunate in having a constable, P.C. Peter Conroy, with a flair for humorous cartoons, and time and time again his work has brought to life what might otherwise be a rather dull poster or pamphlet.

### First Steps in Film-Making

Three years ago specially-selected crime prevention officers were spending a good deal of time talk-

ing to gatherings of such organisations as Womens Institutes and Rotary Clubs, and although they were able to illustrate their talks by photographs, posters and slides, it was appreciated that a short film on crime prevention, followed by a question period, might make these periods really interesting, entertaining and instructive.

Our first enquiries into the cost of a short commercially produced 16mm film were revealing, disturbing and disappointing. It was clear that, with the limited finances at our disposal a commercial production was out of the question.

### The Enthusiast

Fortunately, in the Buckinghamshire Constabulary Photography Department at that time, 1958, we had a most enthusiastic, energetic and versatile young policeman in the person of Detective Sergeant Derek Gates—now Chief Photographic Officer to the Kenya Police at Nairobi.

May I, with my very limited technical knowledge of the game of film making—despite subsequently finding my name on the credit titles as “produced by”—warn any other would-be producers, that without such a tireless, jack-of-all-trades enthusiast, the successful film is going to be very expensive, probably disappointing and certainly the product of a lot of frustration. With such a man the difficulties disappear. My very sincere advice to anyone contemplating a film is: “Unless you have someone who is prepared to devote all his spare time and energy to the project, **don't start.**”

Our film was made in rather more than a year, at a cost of a little over £50 and has, I honestly think, paid handsome dividends.

“Crime in Bucks” is a 16 mm. film, 1,090 feet, with a running time

of 26 minutes. It was made on Kodak negative film and we were fortunate in not having to use more than 1,500 feet of it. Wastage is normally, I understand, very much more than this.

We had no film-making equipment and no experience of film making. Detective Sergeant Gates, however, was able to borrow, whenever he needed it, a Bell and Howell 16 mm. cine camera, a film editor and a splicer. We were also able to turn to a whole host of cine enthusiasts, both amateur and professional, for advice. Practically everything else used in our production was improvised at little or no cost and much was learned from useful articles on film-making in such publications as the *Amateur Photographer* and the *Amateur Cine World*.

### Preparing the Script

We often hear the term “amateur” applied to something rather sub-standard and, so far as film-making is concerned, it is obvious that police officers cannot compete with the resources of a professional film unit. But, whatever the quality of the finished film, it must be remembered that it is to be used in only a limited setting and for a definite purpose. The film is designed for a particular need, it has a special interest to those to whom it is shown and (so far as “Crime in Bucks” is concerned) it is in a local setting. These points more than offset absence of a professional background. The film must, of course, be planned and in our case this was done by writing a proposed script before anything else was considered.

In Buckinghamshire, as in other police districts, some forms of crime are more prevalent than others and it was a fairly easy matter to decide which particular matters were to be “featured”. We were, of course, limited by the amount of film we were to use but we found we were able to cover a good deal of ground.



*Ex-Det. Sgt. D. Gates, now in Kenya, whose photographic skill was largely responsible for the production of the Bucks. film.*





*A still from the Bucks, film showing an observant householder noticing the behaviour of a suspect.*

### Timing and Casting Hints

Our commentary was then written, criticised and re-written. It was carefully timed so that we knew exactly how much "shooting" time we had to illustrate our advice about each particular crime prevention aspect. For instance, out of a total running time of 26 minutes we devoted 50 seconds to the installation of "silent" alarms, 1 min. 10 secs. to thefts of bicycles; 2 mins. 45 secs. to the use of the G.P.O. 999 system, and so on.

We were not able to afford the luxury of professional sets, neither of course did we employ professional actors.

No difficulty was encountered in recruiting those who took part. They included policemen and police women, members of their families, civilian clerks, local shopkeepers and even complete strangers who, at a material time, happened to be in the vicinity of the "shooting" with just the right sort of car we thought ideal for a particular sequence.

### Elusive "Thief"

I must make special mention of the "star", Detective Constable George Greenstock, now retired, who took the part of "The Thief". A very able policeman, this officer proved that in the police service one need not look far for those with a natural ability to act. Discerning policemen who see our film point out that the thief no sooner gets arrested than he is seen at liberty under further suspicious circumstances. It is to avoid situations like this that the professional film producer employs a continuity girl. So far as we were concerned, it added

to our fun and, I am sure, to the continued amusement of our audiences.

In most cases the only rehearsal was a quick run through the action a few minutes before the scene was shot and, on reflection, it is remarkable how rarely a retake was necessary. Outdoor scenes were taken in various parts of the county and we find that recognition of a locality made for added interest to audiences. Even a scene depicting a stolen car abandoned on a desolate "Yorkshire moor" was, in fact, filmed in Buckinghamshire, the skilful use of a "Yorkshire" signpost completing the deception.

### Grim Realism

Interior scenes were, for the most part, shot in private houses, shops and offices with the co-operation of the occupiers. To show the damage and disturbance housebreakers can leave behind them, we waited until an actual offence, ideally illustrating our point, was committed. Unfortunately, in a county like ours, we had not long to wait.

Certain other interior scenes were "mocked up" in our disused-garage studio. Ingenuity on the part of Detective Inspector—now Detective Chief Inspector—Bowker, deservedly credited as "director" on the titles, and Detective Sergeant Gates, with the aid of plywood, wall-paper and odd bits of furniture, produced some really effective results.

### Introducing the "Effects"

The editing and splicing was undertaken by Detective Sergeant Gates with the advice of local cine enthusiasts and the loan of their equipment and we had our titles

filmed professionally. A positive was then printed and was "striped" for sound. This means having inserted at the edge of the film a magnetic stripe on which the effects, music and commentary can be recorded.

Here again, if finances are such that this cannot be done professionally, it is amazing what results can be obtained by the ingenious use of two or three record players or tape recorders and a mixer. One advantage which may sustain the amateur commentator is that if perfection is not obtained first time—and from experience I know that this is more than likely—the stripe may be "wiped", time and time again, until a satisfactory result is achieved.

It may be argued that a good deal of unnecessary effort is involved if each Force is to make its individual crime prevention film; that a concerted effort by the Home Office might produce one first class, professionally-produced Crime Prevention film. It must be agreed that if this were done and, even if a good deal of money was spent on it, the cost of copies of the film to individual forces might not be excessive.

On the other hand, the appeal of a local film is well worth emphasising. Our film has been, and is still being, shown up and down the County to large and small gatherings. As I have said, they recognise the locality in which the film was shot as their own or they may recognise the policeman taking part as their policeman.

I cannot pay too high a tribute to ex-Detective Sergeant Gates without whom "Crime in Bucks" would probably never have been started. Other Forces undoubtedly have similar enthusiasts—men who by their own ingenuity can produce for shillings a result that in the hands of professionals would cost many pounds. If they have no such man they might need a deep pocket to produce a satisfactory film. If they have, like Buckinghamshire, they will find that for a reasonable outlay plus a good deal of effort, their Crime Prevention campaign can be given a most effective "shot in the arm" and the general public of their county a message as effective as the one with which Brigadier Cheney concludes our film—"Crime in Buckinghamshire can be reduced with **your** help".

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*Security Gazette*

## Mr. Butler On Crime Figures Need for Police Co-operation

**A**DDRESSING the annual meeting of the Association of Municipal Corporations at Eastbourne on 21st September, the Home Secretary discussed the increase of crime last year but pointed out that the rate of increase was not as great as in preceding years. In the youngest age group there was even a slight fall. This might be the beginning of a general decline, but it was too soon to tell and meanwhile there was a heavy strain on such resources as prison accommodation.

The most effective way of deterring criminals was to ensure that they were promptly found out. Modern resources of communications and transport made it essential that the police should be one step ahead of the criminal and they must therefore be well equipped.

### Post-War Link-up

Local police authorities, said Mr. Butler, had long recognised the necessity for full co-operation between local police areas; the improvement in techniques of co-operation between forces was one of

the most notable developments since the war. It had not detracted from the essentially local character of the police service.

In the long run the state of crime could not be separated from the general moral and spiritual health of the community which was both manifested and prompted by public or private expression of concern for the welfare of others. The importance of education could not be exaggerated when considering delinquent behaviour.

### New Fire Prevention Plans

Regarding civil defence, Mr. Butler said we had never minimised the horrifying effect of modern weapons. Experts estimated that nuclear war would be an unparalleled disaster but that there would also be millions of survivors. We must ensure that the public knew the steps to take to mitigate the effects of nuclear weapons and of the assistance civil defence could render.

The decks were now cleared for work on the great problem of fire

prevention, added the Home Secretary. The Factories Act, 1959, laid new statutory obligations upon occupiers of factories for fire prevention. These provisions would shortly become operative and he looked forward to improvements in fire prevention in factories as a result of the new partnership between factory inspectors and fire authorities which the Act contemplated. He had recently announced the intention to introduce comprehensive legislation on health, safety and welfare in shops, offices, and other non-industrial premises. There, too, we must consider what fire prevention measures would be needed.

Arrangements had been made for extending facilities for training fire officers in fire prevention work. Over the next three years greatly increased numbers would take a six months' fire prevention course at the Fire Service College, and 700 more would take a special short course, concentrated mainly on means of escape, at an annexe to the College which was being opened at Moreton-in-the-Marsh.

## WOOD GREEN STAGE OWN EXHIBITION



The Metropolitan Police last month staged what may be the first of other crime prevention exhibitions by supporting the annual horticulture show and fête at Wood Green with a demonstration of publicity material and security devices. The two-day event turned out to be a success. Held in a marquee, the exhibits attracted, it is estimated, some 10,000 people. They were shown the 999 system in operation. It was backed up by publicity posters and leaflets.

Security firms taking part were Burgot Rentals, Rely - a - Bell, Chubbs, and Security Products. They displayed methods of property and household protection, safes, alarm bags, and vehicle alarms. The

*The exhibit of Metropolitan 999 and radio communications.*

### Wood Green Exhibition, cont.

approach of their contribution was to allot an individual stand to the type of protective device on show, the whole being brought together under one common heading. One side of the tent was taken up by this stand with the Metropolitan Police exhibits down the other aisle. The *Security Gazette* was also represented.

The exhibition was organised by Acting Superintendent Fowler of the Wood Green station, to gain the interest of business firms besides the general public.

*One side of the marquee was taken up by the integrated exhibits of security products and devices shown above.*



### NEW PREVENTION FILMS FROM C.O.I.

The Central Office of Information is producing two new films for public showing on TV and at the cinemas to publicise crime prevention. They are "Wolf in Stripe Clothing" and "Prevention in Commercial Premises". They will take the form of cartoons, the first being aimed at the general householder.

Though initiated by the Home

Office, responsibility for design and production rests with the film division of the C.O.I., which also brought out four other films, now withdrawn—"Open House", "Help Yourself", "Burglar Club" and "In the Dock".

These films are produced as part of the Home Office's public safety programme.



*'Car Thief', an early official film, publicised the need for crime prevention by car owners. In view of the increasing interest being shown by Forces in film production, this issue of the Gazette contains two special articles on the subject.*

### Recruiting for Civil Defence

CIVIL DEFENCE and Fire Service authorities in many parts of the country are staging public events of various kinds to attract recruits and to emphasise the up-to-date methods and equipment now used in training. As many as possible are needed to replace wastage. Nearly 35,000 men and women joined the Civil Defence

Corps and the Auxiliary Fire Service in 1959.

The strength of the Civil Defence Corps at 30th June, was 321,301; 178,053 were in Industrial Civil Defence; 18,779 in the Auxiliary Fire Service; 49,421 in the Special Constabulary and 55,835 in the National Hospital Service Reserve. These figures refer to England and Wales.

### More Cycle Patrols in Leeds But Foot Police Still Essential

The number of crimes in Leeds in 1959 was the highest ever recorded according to the annual report of the Chief Constable, Mr. Alex. J. Paterson. There were 1,789 breakings, compared with 1,597 in 1958; 5,774 larcenies against 5,016; and 117 woundings against 82. Juveniles committed 1,138 offences.

A type of offence which was growing and was perhaps a reflection of the times, was the larceny as bailee of goods obtained on hire purchase. The opportunity to obtain valuable goods on a fractional deposit was a temptation to which an increasing number of people had succumbed. In a number of these cases these offences might have been prevented if the trader had taken reasonable steps to check references or guarantors. Mr. Paterson felt that when such laxity was apparent, civil action could be taken to recover the property, leaving police time to be better spent.

It had been decided that a much improved service could be given by the greater use of lightweight motor cycles, equipped with wireless for beat working. A plan had been approved for the purchase of 35 machines a year for a three-year period to reach a force establishment of 105. This did not mean that the foot constable had been abolished, added the Chief Constable. Far from it. The closely built-up areas in the City centre still required supervision by policemen on foot and would continue to do so in the foreseeable future.

*Security Gazette*



# HOW CRIME AND FIRE AFFECT THE EMPLOYER

## Obligation Imposed by the 1959 Act

by P. H. V. GALE

*of the Employers' Liability Assurance Corporation Ltd.*

Modern legislation aims to eliminate the risk of fire as far as possible in factory construction and to ensure adequate provision for escape. New responsibilities are imposed on employers by the 1959 Act and liabilities may be incurred also by criminal activities. These factors are assessed in this article for the benefit of employers and security officers by an insurance expert.

**T**HE Factories Act of 1937 and the Regulations made thereunder, and the Common Law duty for an employer to take reasonable care to provide proper appliances and to maintain them in a proper condition and not to subject his employees to unnecessary risk, are well known basic principles of which the employer, seeking insurance for his liability to his employees, is aware.

The employer may not be quite so conversant with the Factories Act of 1959. In view, however, of the additional duties imposed upon him, it is essential that he should acquaint himself with the terms of this Act. Breach thereof renders an employer absolutely liable for consequent injury to his employees. Various Sections of the 1959 Act have still to be brought into operation, but a Government spokesman has expressed a hope that all the fire provisions of the Act would be brought into operation towards the end of 1960.

### Fire Fighting Obligations

It has been said that the most important aspect of fire-protection is the saving of life; it is hoped that regulations to be made under the new Act will go a long way towards reducing the toll of lives. The "fire sections" of the 1937 Act dealt only with fire alarms, means of escape and a few miscellaneous precautions; it contained nothing about fire fighting or fire prevention.

Under the new Act, apart from strengthening the existing provisions about means of escape and fire alarms, it will be necessary for every factory in the country to have "appropriate means" of fighting fires. It can be assumed that the regulations, when they are made, will lay down detailed requirements for fire fighting equipment in particular classes of factories. Over a period of time the task of ensuring that all the factories concerned are provided with a means of escape will be transferred from District Councils to Fire Authorities. A memorandum giving guidance to Fire Authorities will undoubtedly be issued in due course.

### Reducing Fire Risks

Under Section II of the 1959 Act, the Minister of Labour may make special regulations as to the measures to be taken to reduce the risk of fire breaking out in any factory, or of any fire or smoke spreading

throughout a factory. H.M. Inspectors of Factories have, of course, in co-operation with Fire Services, given advice to factory occupiers about fire prevention for many years now. At some time in the future "advice" will be replaced by regulations which will contain *inter alia* minimum requirements as to the internal construction of a factory and the materials used in that construction.

### Prevention at Planning Stage

On the question of co-operation on fire prevention no one Ministry, society or industry has had a dominant responsibility for it but it seems likely that regulations to be made under the new Act (Section 11) will provide for a person or persons to be responsible for a contravention of the regulations. It is certainly clear that the regulations concerning internal construction of a factory, and the materials used in that construction, will be of such a nature that it will be absolutely essential for there to be very close collaboration between all interested parties in order that the future occupant of the factory, i.e., the employer, can be satisfied that he has fulfilled his obligations under the Act. Who are the interested parties? Initially the employer will instruct an architect to produce plans. At the drawing board stage the employer and the architect should consult the Fire Prevention Officer who will ensure amongst other things that the fire hazards are minimized by the use of fire-resisting materials for floors, walls, columns and beams, placing great emphasis on dividing the building into sections related to the fire hazards.

At all stages throughout the project the insurance company will have a great interest in the construction and they should be brought into the discussions at the outset. Insurance companies are well aware of the need of the utmost co-operation in order that fire hazards can be kept at a minimum. They employ a large number of fully qualified fire surveyors who have had years of experience of "cause and effect" and insurers have gone a long way to meeting the problem of advising clients on fire problems by sponsoring the Fire Protection Association and also partly financing the Joint Fire Research Organisation.

Further Sections of the 1959 Act relate to safety provisions in case of fire, the marking of fire exits, the giving of fire warnings and testing of the means of giving fire warnings, and power of entry of officers of Fire Authorities.

### Safeguards Against Criminal Violence

Turning now to matters of crime, it is possible to see that under certain circumstances an employer could be

held to be liable for injury to an employee consequent upon, say, a burglary at the employer's premises. If, for example, the employer is a diamond merchant, and he does not take reasonable safeguards to protect his stock, and does not give his nightwatchman reasonable means of protection or means of giving alarms, and in a subsequent burglary the nightwatchman is injured, it may be held that the employer was negligent, and is therefore liable to pay damages to the injured man. Also it would seem to be the employer's responsibility to see, as soon as a burglary has been discovered and all necessary investigations carried out, that the premises are cleaned up and made fit for the work to be resumed. Failure to see that broken glass is removed from a machine before the operative commences work may be held to be a case of employer's negligence.

### Outside Security Specialists

It has been suggested that an employer's liability risk is improved if the employer engages an outside security company in preference to using his own staff. This is probably true where there is no shift work and where, but for the security company, the premises would be unoccupied during the hours of darkness. Not only would the security staff be on guard against burglars but they would be on hand in the event of fire. That a security company's staff are on duty at the same time as the employer's own staff during the hours of daylight would have little bearing upon the employer's duty to protect his staff, except that he is going some way to see that his own men are not exposed to hazards of violence.

### Cash in Transit Protection

The risk of "wages grab" presents its own problems and it would seem that the employer has a definite duty to protect the person or persons whose job it is to collect large sums of money from the bank. The employer should see that such collections are not carried out at the same time each week. Neither should the employee use the same route between bank and premises for every collection. A "bodyguard" would seem desirable if very large sums are to be carried. These are only a number of safeguards already recommended in various previous articles in the *Security Gazette*. Failure to exercise due vigilance over these matters may render the employer liable for damages in respect of the employee's injuries.

It will be appreciated that the above remarks relate only to the employer's legal liability for death of or injury to the employee. What is the position of the employer with regard to an employee's clothing, personal effects and bicycle? Here again it is a question of "has the employer taken reasonable steps to safeguard the employee's property?" If the fire giving rise to the injury to the employee, for which the insured has been held liable also damages the employee's clothing, then *prima facie* the employer is liable for that also. Normally a claim solely for damage to employee's clothing is dealt with under a public liability policy and not an employer's liability policy.

### Protection Against Internal Theft

Theft by fellow employees or outsiders of employees' personal effects from lockers or bicycles from bicycle sheds, presents very difficult problems since the employer's position depends very largely on the terms under which the articles are deposited in such lockers or sheds. If the employer has been grossly negligent and this can be proved, then the employee may have a claim against him. There can be no rule of thumb in these cases and the final result depends entirely on the facts of each case. Apart from any question of liability at law it is obviously in the interest of the employers to see that employees' property is protected as much as the employees themselves.

Whilst cover for burglary and housebreaking resulting in the loss of employees' effects is obtainable in the insurance market, insurers are not anxious to offer cover in respect of larceny or theft of such effects. The obvious difficulty is that the employee has only to miss an article and he may assume it has been the subject of a theft, whereas in the case of housebreaking there is normally tangible evidence to prove that a genuine loss has occurred.

In any event, it is usual where a firm's burglary policy includes an item in respect of employees' personal effects, for a maximum limit of £25 to apply to any one employee.

Any employer in doubt as to his position under the various Statutes and regulations which may apply to him and at Common Law, would be well advised to consult his insurance company.

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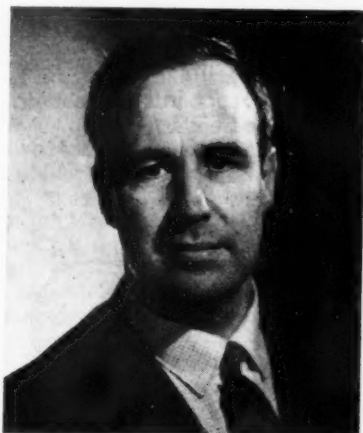


Mr. Alfred G. Katzin

### U.N. SECURITY HEAD

Mr. Alfred G. Katzin, former Deputy Under-Secretary of the United Nations, has been in charge of all security arrangements during the present Assembly discussions at the headquarters in New York. His task is formidable in view of the large number of Heads of States attending. Mr. Katzin, however, a popular figure, has plenty of experience behind him. He was responsible for Headquarters planning for the Suez Canal clearance.

He was born in Capetown in 1906; during World War II he served in the South African and British forces, rising to the rank of Colonel. In 1945, he turned to the task of relief and reconstruction, joining U.N.R.R.A. Headquarters in Washington. Mr. Katzin came to the U.N. in 1948 as special consultant to the Secretary-General, whose personal representative he was both in Korea in 1950 and to the U.N. Peace Observation Commission.



Mr. George Brown

October, 1960



Mr. J. R. Gorman

### B.O.A.C.'s NEW CHIEF

Chosen to succeed Mr. Donald Fish as head of British Overseas Airways Corporation security department is Mr. John Gorman, who took up his new post on 1st September. Mr. Gorman, aged 37, was formerly a captain in the Royal Ulster Constabulary and received the M.B.E. for his services in the Monaghan area against the I.R.A. He joined the R.U.C. after war service in the Irish Guards, during which he was awarded the M.C.

Mr. Gorman's father was deputy head of the British police mission to Greece in 1947. His hobbies are bee keeping and amateur dramatics.

### MACKINLAY SALES APPOINTMENT

As part of a re-organisation recently effected, Mackinlay's Detective Agency & Guard Services, of 93 Hope Street, Glasgow, announce the appointment of Mr. George Brown as Sales Manager.

Mr. Brown made it clear in an interview that although plans for expansion of their service to Scottish firms are being formulated, it is not intended to extend their service to England in the foreseeable future. Under his direction, Mackinlay's are stepping up their sales promotion drive. A campaign, using modern publicity methods, with a series of direct mail "shots" as the spearhead, will inform Scottish business executives, particularly in the greater Glasgow area, that the Mackinlay organisation, it is claimed, has "the men and the experience" to safeguard property against fire and theft.

### Personalia

#### COL. G. W. R. HEARN TO RETIRE

The Chief Constable of Staffordshire, Col. G. W. R. Hearn, is to retire next March. Aged 67, he has served with the Force, with an interval for war service, since 1935, when he was appointed deputy Chief. He gained the King's Police Medal in 1948 and became Chief Constable in 1950. He was appointed a C.B.E. in 1959.

#### Tyne Police Appointment

Chief Inspector J. H. Cram, of the River Tyne Police, has been promoted to be deputy Chief Constable. He joined the Force in 1947 as a constable, transferring from the Metropolitan Police in which, apart from war service with the R.A.F., he had served since 1936.



Sgt. W. A. Morgan

#### Commended for Arrests

A member of Securicor's uniformed staff, Sergeant Morgan, has been commended by both his firm and by Bowater Packaging Ltd. for his recent action whilst on duty at Clapton. He disturbed two intruders in the factory who had caused considerable damage. One of them he managed to bring down and to hand over to the police. The other was also subsequently arrested. They were sent for trial on a charge of factory breaking.



## TRAINING SCHEME FOR LONDON AREA

IN response to requests, consideration is now being given to the arrangement of training courses for Security Officers residing in the London area. It is intended that they should be similar in structure to the successful courses already carried out in the Birmingham area by the Industrial Police Association. The Council of the I.P.A. is, of course, willing to support any plan of the necessary standard designed to improve training facilities.

The aim of the courses is to provide instruction and information for both newcomers to the profession and more experienced officers seeking additional training.

Chief Security Officers or Personnel Managers who would like to support this London plan are requested to communicate with the Editor of the *Security Gazette*, who has agreed to act in the first instance as a medium for further organisation. It is hoped that the courses will be held before the end of the year.

## MAIL SECURITY CRITICISED

### "Irresponsible" Says Jewel Man

**O**NLY if mail is to be unloaded at stations en route does it travel with the guard. Other mail travels in locked "through" vans not under direct surveillance. Investigations by underwriters into a recent train robbery have established that the bags of registered mail were carried in the normal railway luggage brake van which has eight doors, all fitted with standard locks.

It has been admitted by a railway spokesman that it would not be difficult for a gang to obtain keys.

Mr. F. L. Copperman, managing director of J. Aardewerk (Diamonds) Ltd., whose firm lost a consignment of diamonds worth £12,000 in the theft from a Birmingham to Euston train on 2nd September, has called attention to what he regards as loopholes in the security arrangements for the transport of registered letters. He is angry not for the loss, for he has been fully compensated, but at what he terms "the irresponsible way in which registered mail appears to be carried regularly on trains."

## FAMOUS PAINTING SAVED

**A** PAINTING, "The Finding of Christ in the Temple", by Simone Martini, the 14th century painter, worth £100,000 and said to be the most valuable in the Walker Art Gallery Collection at Liverpool, was dropped at the foot of a stairway by a thief who had wrenched it from the wall and was then interrupted before he could get away, on the night of 14th September.

The intruder heard the footsteps of Stanley Curran, 39, an attendant on night patrol. Curran dialled 999 after seeing the man run up the stairs to the roof. Police surrounded the building. They brought tracker dogs. But no trace of the intruder was found.



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## 'PUNISH ON THE SPOT'

### Better Than Court Sentences

SOME thoughts on corporal punishment—expressed in public, at Bebington, Cheshire, on 23rd September, by Mr. Dennis Vosper, M.P., Joint Under Secretary of State at the Home Office—may be taken as an indication of the latest trend of opinion in official circles while the Government's promised Bill on penal reform is under consideration.

Mr. Vosper referred to an "undoubted public clamour for the re-introduction of corporal punishment, particularly from women". But, he said, to make corporal punishment available for the sort of offence for which it was nowadays recommended, one would have to go back to 1861. It was very hard to believe that something that had been abandoned as being out of date then should be thought appropriate for 1961.

"Corporal punishment at home or at school is far better than 'judicial beatings at the instigation of the courts'," said Mr. Vosper.

He recommended immediate punishment given by somebody with whom the offender was familiar.

It was an entirely different matter for the agents of the State to administer corporal punishment in cold blood a considerable time after the offence, when there was little relationship in the mind of the offender between the punishment and the offence.

The impersonal nature of the action could well have the effect of making the offender more anti-social, and deepen his hatred of authority.

The "immediate punishment given by someone with whom the offender is familiar", echoes in a way the plea of the *Security Gazette* in its September issue for the return of the paternal policeman of previous generations who kept juvenile delinquency in check by boxing the ears of the offender. It is far more effective and inspires a greater respect for the law than any court procedure, juvenile or otherwise. Its revival for an experimental period, we suggested, might well solve, in course of time, the "Teddy-boy" problem and thus render unnecessary much of the programme of pre-release and after care treatment now being prepared for Parliament's consideration.

### SECURITY GUARD SAVES WOMAN

SHORTLY after midnight on 23rd July, L. A. de Zilwa, a security guard employed by Securicor Ltd., heard cries for help outside his assignment in Rathbone Place, W.1. On investigation he found a girl struggling with a man who was armed with a knife. She had already been stabbed but, on the arrival of Mr. de Zilwa, the assailant took to his heels, leaving the girl lying on the pavement. Mr. de Zilwa rendered what assistance he could and put through an emergency call to the police. The girl was taken to hospital and, thanks to the prompt intervention of the guard who prevented more severe wounds being inflicted, she was soon pronounced out of danger.

The assailant, Kenneth Berman, was later arrested and, on the 13th September, was sentenced to 18 months' imprisonment for causing grievous bodily harm.

A Commendation Certificate has been awarded to Mr. de Zilwa.

October, 1960

## SCOTLAND



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## CRIME REVIEW

September's crime record proved to be unusually heavy and with clear lessons for security forces. Large-scale coups included payroll grabs, a bank break-in and a second raid on the London-Brighton railway, all of them providing evidence of elaborate preparation, precision timing and the organisation of man-power so as to outnumber escort guards employed on individual operations. New problems have therefore to be faced by security forces and additional precautions urgently devised.

### £50,000 STREET AND P.O. RAIDS

#### Cars Ambushed and Rammed

**W**AGE grabs on a large scale led to violent scenes in several areas of London on the morning of Friday, 23rd September. Thieves got away with the total of £35,000 in raids at Cricklewood, Bow and Fulham and a further £15,000 was secured by a gang who blew safes at Clerkenwell Green Post Office.

The biggest raid of the day was at Cricklewood where a Handley Page van, loaded with 30 boxes of money for 3,000 H-bomb plane employees at Radlett, was ambushed soon after leaving its headquarters. Six masked men coshed the guards and got away with £33,000.

The bandits used three vehicles.

Inside the Handley Page van were the driver, Mr. A. Smith, and two guards, Mr. P. MacNamara and Mr. V. James.

As they drove into Purley Avenue, from a back door of Handley Page's Cricklewood headquarters a saloon car drove into the path of the van, a van drew up on one side and another car drew up on the other.

The bandits attacked the men who fought to defend the money. Mr. James was blinded by pepper thrown into his eyes as he stepped out of the van to see what had happened. Mr. MacNamara and Mr. Smith were slugged with heavy bars and stunned.

Two of the three men were dumped back into their own van and bound and gagged. A masked man took over the wheel and drove off furiously, followed by two of the bandit's cars.

At a road junction at the bottom of Purley Avenue, the Handley Page van crashed into a corporation dustcart. Both were badly smashed. But the

van raced on to a cul-de-sac near a playing field at Brent Terrace, Golders Green. The money was transferred to the two other cars and they were driven off.

MacNamara and Smith were taken to hospital, and James was treated by first aid workers at the Cricklewood factory.

#### Route Selected by Lot

The robbers defeated the system which varied the time of departure of the wages van, the gate at which it left the factory and its subsequent route to Radlett. Eight variations of the route were made out on separate cards and these were shuffled and laid face downwards for the driver to make a blind choice when he was ready to start. Until the card was chosen neither he nor the accompanying guards were aware of the route of that day's journey.

For some days after the raid, Flying Squad officers, co-operating with local C.I.D. men, were active in raiding places in the East End of London, where it was felt that clues might be gained into the identity of the criminals or the whereabouts of the missing booty. A large number of people were interviewed. Enquiries were particularly directed towards locating one well-known criminal who, it was thought, might help the police in their enquiries.

## EAST END RAMMING

Cashiers returning in a chauffeur-driven car to the Crown Wall-paper Works in Bow were rammed by a stolen Ford Zephyr in Old Ford Road. The car with a smaller car escort was surrounded by a gang of seven masked men who smashed the windows with iron bars and snatched a briefcase containing £4,500 wages. The assailants escaped in a Dormobile waiting in Wrexham Road with engine running.

On the same morning two men were attacked by a gang of three in Fulham High Street as they were returning to their firm with £1,000 drawn from the bank. Mr. Robert Mayne, aged 63, of Tonbridge, the cashier of Philip & Tracey, stationery manufacturers, of Fulham High Street, and Mr. Bernard Whiskin, aged 24, of Roseberry Road, Fulham, also employed by the firm, were walking back after collecting the money. They were coshed and punched when they reached the corner where two men were waiting. One man snatched the wages bag. Mr. Whiskin held on and was dragged to the ground. Then the handle broke and the men ran to a waiting car which drove away across Putney Bridge.

The injured men were taken to Putney Hospital.

## RAIDERS HAD KEYS

**A** GANG using skeleton keys, raided safes at St. Clements Press, Printers of the *Financial Times*, in Queen Victoria Street, City, during the night of 22nd September, abstracting a payroll worth £5,000. Printers worked in departments a few yards away, as the gang crept up the stairs of the newly built building to the wages department on the first floor.

Using their duplicate keys they opened doors leading to the room where two safes are kept.

Again using duplicate keys, they opened the safes and took the money.

*A picture of the damaged pay van in the Cricklewood incident. Major Dean, Handley Page's chief security officer, is on the right of the group.*



## £25,000 RAID ON BARCLAYS

### Wall Broached at Week-end

**D**URING the week-end 3rd-5th September, thieves broke into Barclays Bank in High Street, Bordesley, Birmingham, ransacked the strong room, and got away with £25,000. No alarm was raised and the crime was not discovered until the chief cashier arrived on the Monday morning with the second key to the strong room. This was the largest bank robbery since the £87,500 taken from Barclays, Hackney, in January.

To gain entry to the bank and reach the strong room, the thieves smashed a hole 2 ft. 6 in. by 2 ft. in a brick wall 9 in. thick at the back of the bank. They had climbed 30 ft. down a railway embankment behind the bank. A pair of steps, believed

to have been used were found near the bank's furnace house. Papers and envelopes marked "Barclays Bank" were scattered nearby.

Police used tracker dogs to try to pick up the scent of the raiders, and every force in the country was alerted to keep a watch for a 1954 Vauxhall car, registration number GTY 988, stolen from outside "The Lamp" public-house, about 30 yards from the bank, between 7 p.m. and 7.30 p.m. on Sunday.

It was reported at the beginning of the year that banks were making a big security drive to protect their strong rooms after thieves had escaped with over £200,000 in cash and valuables during 1959.

### VILLAGE BANK HOLD-UP

**T**wo masked and armed men raided the small branch premises of Lloyds Bank at Horndean, a village some ten miles north of Portsmouth on the main London road and escaped with over £2,000 on Monday, 12th September. The money was the week-end takings of the village shops and

had been prepared for transference when just before closing time, two heavily-built men burst in. One, waving a pistol pushed the manager and the cashier against a wall and made a second cashier fill a satchel with the cash. The thieves got away in a stolen car despite road blocks.

## LONDON'S DAILY RAID TOLL

**L**ONDON witnessed the following series of adventures on one September morning—the 12th.

Breaking into the Co-operative grocery and dairy in Brownhill Road, Catford, before the staff arrived, three masked gunmen lay low until the manager appeared, then pounced and forced him to unlock the safe. They got away by car with £800. Miss Florence Hale, arriving at the shop for her first day's work, was threatened with a pistol and told to stay behind the counter out of the way.

Other raids in the early hours of the 12th included:

Thieves rammed the front door of H. Costa's wholesale tobacco firm in Clifton Street, Finsbury, with a lorry and escaped with 100,000 cigarettes worth £1,000.

Three men beat up the under-manager of Wards Irish House in Piccadilly and escaped with £30. The under-manager, 50-year-old Mr. Gerald Hartigan, of York-Street, St. Marylebone, was later treated for an eye injury.

Two 6ft-tall bandits tried to snatch a handbag containing £350 at a bus stop in Barking-Road, Plaistow. The owner, Mrs. Ellen Medley, who was on her way to a bank in Canning

Town, struggled and shouted for help and the men ran off to a waiting car.

A bandit escaped with about £70 which he grabbed from a customer at the Midland Bank branch in Stroud Green-Road, Islington.

Among those who suffered in a series of London raids on Friday, 15th September, was the well-known hair-stylist, Raymond. While he was absent, opening a new salon at Guildford, a thief entered his premises in Albemarle Street, Mayfair, and took £535 and cheques from the top-floor office. Duplicate keys were believed to have been used.

The tally of London raids that day included the following: Thieves blew open a safe at Norwood Post Office, Crystal Palace, and got away with £2,600.

A bag containing £200 in notes was snatched from two Post Office clerks who were coshed as they returned to Kilburn High Road Post Office from a bank.

Three men rammed a cashier's car in East Ham and beat up its two occupants after smashing the car windows with pickaxe handles. They took bags containing about £28 in silver and copper—but missed about £500 in notes.

## INEXPERT RAID ON ANTIQUES

**I**N an early morning raid on the premises of Thomas Lumley, antique dealer, Bury Street, St. James's, silver pieces to the value of £10,000, a provisional estimate, were taken on Wednesday, 21st September.

Entry was made between 6.30 and 7.45 in the morning by forcing padlocks off the front doors. The thieves gathered silver pieces indiscriminately without regard to their value, as *objets d'art* or as components of antique sets. The result was that a number of valuable sets, including two four-piece caddy sets, were ruined. Some fine missing articles of the George II period include four candelabra worth £1,500, fruit bowls and cruets.

Some of the stolen property has distinctive armorial bearings and other designs which will militate against its sale through ordinary trade channels. So inexpert were the raiders that the police are inclined to the belief that they can be classed as "amateurs", possibly inspired by a professional receiver. Two men would have been necessary to shift the heavy booty to the waiting car driven by a third member of the gang.

### Rent Money the Objective

**C**OURAGEOUS and resourceful resistance by Mr. Arthur Murfitt, a rent collector, put to flight a gunman and two accomplices at his home at Lake Avenue, Rainham, Kent, on 19th September.

Late at night, Mr. Murfitt answered a knock on his front door and found one bandit outside. The raider pushed a .45 Colt revolver into his stomach and gripped hold of his neck.

"I found myself looking down the barrel of the revolver," said Mr. Murfitt afterwards. "The man stuck the gun into my ribs and pushed me into the kitchen."

"As he attempted to put his arm round my neck I ducked under his arm and grabbed for the gun, which I threw out into the yard. Then I bolted the door and dialled for the police."

Mrs. Murfitt saw the gunman, aged about 30 to 35, and masked with a scarf, run down the road with two accomplices. Police found the Colt unloaded.

A lady rent collector was not so successful as Mr. Murfitt. She was about to knock at a door on a council prefab estate, Southall, when a black saloon car drove up.

Two men jumped out, grabbed a satchel containing about £100 rent money, then drove off.



## Second Raid On Brighton Mail

### Interference With Signals

**R**AIDS on H.M. mails while in transit were resumed after a month's interval. A London-Brighton train was selected for attention on 20th September in circumstances somewhat similar to the last of the three major seizures or attempts made in August. On the previous occasion the mail bags were rifled on the early afternoon express from Brighton after masked men had invaded the guard's van and bound and gagged him. The September coup, equally successful, involved the train that left London for Brighton and some intermediate stations at 9.28 p.m.

The attack came after the train had left Haywards Heath Station and before it entered Patchem tunnel. Three men, their faces covered by

nylon stockings, overpowered, bound and gagged the guard without attracting the attention of passengers. When the train made an unexpected stop at the approach to the tunnel, the men threw out six mail bags, jumped down, and ran away. Apparently they got away in a car awaiting them on the Brighton road which runs parallel with the line.

The train resumed its journey and the plight of the guard was only discovered when he failed to flag its departure from Preston Park Station.

The contents of the stolen mail bags included 45 registered letters, three of which contained a total of £9,000 and the others, various sums totalling £2,000.

### DRIVE AGAINST CAR THIEVES

**S**TOLEN cars have become indispensable aids to modern criminal gangs setting out on law-breaking expeditions. Now Scotland Yard has taken special counter measures to stop their sources of supply and to make car thefts in general more difficult.

The sole function of a new department at the Yard, known as C 10, is the tracking down of the secret depots where stolen cars are rapidly transformed by re-spraying, fitting of new number plates, and equipping with new log books. Many of the suspect depots are believed to be just outside the Metropolitan Police borders.

Secret methods of preventing the theft of parked cars are also to be introduced.

Last year 9,171 motor vehicles worth £3,500,000 were stolen—an increase of 2,547 over 1958. Another 17,470 vehicles were driven away and found abandoned within 48 hours.

### Dog Doping Enquiries

**A**LLLEGATIONS of dog-doping have followed some inexplicable running by highly-fancied dogs at recent sports arenas about London. Some gamblers are said to have had heavy wins as a result.

Detectives of the Yard's flying squad, led by Detective Inspector Norman Hoggins, have been given the names of at least 10 dogs which ran "off form" when they were expected to win or to run well. Within the next few weeks, several people often seen at London stadiums are expected to be interviewed. A full report on the Yard's inquiry will be sent to the Director of Public Prosecutions.

### WATCHMAN MURDERED IN FRANCE

Hooded bandits killed a watchman and stole a £21,000 payroll at Mulhouse, France, early on 15th September. A cashier was wounded. Four men drove to the administrative building of the Fernand potash mine at Wittenheim. One stood guard while the others entered the rooms where the payroll was being prepared, shouting: "Up with your hands." They opened fire with automatic pistols, scooped loose money into sacks, and ran away.

### LADY RENWICK'S £20,000 LOSS

**A** REWARD of £2,000 has been offered for information concerning jewellery, valued at £20,000, stolen from the home of Sir Robert and Lady Renwick at Herne's Cottage, Winkfield, Berks.

When Lady Renwick returned from a stay in Yorkshire, her maidservant, unpacking her luggage, put the white leather jewel case under her bed where it was usually hidden. Two days later it was gone.

### Sub-Post Office Snatch

A young man entered a shop and sub-post office in Aberdeen on 15th September, brushed aside the woman owner, and snatched registered packets believed to contain about £200.

### FRAUD SQUAD INQUIRY

**S**COTLAND YARD officers, Det. Inspector Leslie Rouse and Det. Con. Douglas Evans, of the Fraud Squad, have been investigating the affairs of the Salaria Organisation, of Blakey, Gloucester, a group of some 20 companies founded by Singh Salariya, a young Indian who has lived in England for five years and is now thought to have returned to India. The businesses said to have been acquired cover a wide variety of activities in the Forest of Dean area and transactions being investigated are said to involve from £500,000 to £1,000,000.

For some months a bank investigator, Mr. J. A. Edwards, has been examining the affairs of the organisation. Petitions for the winding up of five of the companies will be heard at the Law Courts on 10th October.

### H.P. FIRMS DEFRAUDED

**T**ALK of a country-wide racket in which hire purchase companies have suffered large losses at hands of unscrupulous dealers in secondhand cars has been revived by an official communication to the shareholders of Charles Roberts & Co., railway carriage makers and financiers of Wakefield. Total capital of the group amounts to £6 millions.

In a circular, the chairman, Mr. Duncan Bailey, says that an investigation of the accounts of a subsidiary, S. J. Claye, has disclosed a series of fraudulent transactions and the acceptance of business on unsatisfactory terms.

A substantial loss was incurred in the year ended last March. The investigation had not been completed but it appeared probable that the loss would exceed £500,000. All other companies in the group made profits, stated the chairman, but it would be necessary to apply them to reduce the Claye losses.

### Maid Beats Four Bandits

**F**OUR men arrived at a house in Allan Way, Acton, on Wednesday, 28th September, pretending to deliver a T.V. set. But they brushed past the maid at the door, Miss Josephine Manetta, a 25-year-old Italian, and while two of them tried to gag her, the two others, armed with house-breaking tools, ran upstairs in search of the safe. But the girl, though bruised about the face and having her ear-rings torn off, put up so game a struggle that she escaped screaming to the street and gave the alarm to neighbours. The men escaped in their van shortly before the arrival of a Flying Squad car.



# FIRE PRECAUTIONS IN LARGE STORES

## Liverpool Jury's Drastic Recommendations

### EVIDENCE FOR HOME OFFICE — POSSIBLE LEGISLATION

**F**AR-REACHING recommendations for better precautions to be taken against fire in large stores were made by the Coroner's jury charged with the investigation into the deaths of 11 people in the great fire at William Henderson & Sons' Store at Liverpool on 22nd June.

Returning a verdict of death from misadventure in all cases, the jury found that the fire was due to an electrical fault in a cable, with not sufficient evidence to disclose the cause of the fire.

Had the staff been given training, stated the jury, it was well within the bounds of possibility that more lives could have been saved.

The jury made the following five recommendations:

Legislation for the inspection by fire services and enforcement of adequate fire prevention, fire escapes and fire drills in large stores;

False ceilings must be constructed of and supported by fire resistant material;

Staircases and escalators to be separately enclosed with fire resistant material, the exit to be direct into the street;

Automatic heat detectors and water sprinklers to be installed inside and outside ceilings;

All electrical installations should be exhaustively tested and test certificates issued before they are energised.

#### Legislation Possible

The Liverpool Deputy Coroner, Mr. C. J. Cunliffe, had told the jury in his summing-up that there was no evidence of manslaughter. It might well be, he added, that legislation would result from the jury's recommendations. A revolution in fire safety precautions in large stores was possible. A transcript of the evidence will go to the Home Office, who requested that the disaster should be fully investigated at the inquest to dispense with the need for a separate enquiry.

The adjourned inquest, when it was resumed, occupied the Deputy Coroner and jury for some weeks, much of the evidence traversing the story of the fire from the time of the discovery of the first outbreak and the heroism shown by many of the officials and staff.

#### Tribute to Store Manager

High tribute was paid to the conduct

of many members of the staff, particularly that of Mr. William Raymond Terry, the store manager, who lost his life while trying to ensure the escape of others. He was killed when he went to the fourth floor to superintend evacuation of customers and staff.

Mr. Rex Cannon, general manager of Henderson's, said of Mr. Terry: "He was the finest man I have ever met in my life. He was worshipped by every member of the staff. I have never met a man more imbued with a sense of responsibility. That includes five years I spent in the Army. I would never hope to meet a man like him again."

Mr. Cannon also paid tribute to the store staff. He said: "Merseyside should be terribly proud of the staff in those few minutes. From girls of 16 to the most elderly assistants up to 73, they were quite wonderful to the customers."

#### Order to Sound Alarm

Describing his own experiences at the fire, Mr. Cannon was able to tell the Coroner how the alarm was given. He said that he was with staff members on the third floor when he heard crackling. He saw light flicker through the gap between the tiles of a false ceiling.

"Then," Mr. Cannon said: "I ran to the telephone, got through to the operator, and said, 'Quick, Fire Brigade, third floor!' I got an extinguisher, and squirted it, but it just emptied on to the tiles. There was no smoke or smell at that stage."

"Then the telephone rang, and the operator asked if she should sound the fire alarm. I first of all said no. Looking around, seeing people being evacuated, my first thought was 'No panic, no excitement or rush.'"

"My thought was that Henderson's have far more elderly customers than young. It was that if there was cause for evacuation, which I did not see at that stage, to avoid panic, because the worst tragedies are caused by panic."

"Then, still holding the receiver, I thought, 'No, that's silly.' So I picked it up again and said, 'Yes, sound it.'"

After directing the firemen as they arrived, Mr. Cannon ran up the escalator and saw flames on the second floor. This horrified him because it had

a concrete floor and ceiling. On the third floor it was very dark, with a lot of smoke where he had been only a minute or so before.

Cross-examined by Mr. Harry Livermore, for relatives of some of those killed, Mr. Cannon said he did not know of plans to replace wooden staircases in the store with concrete ones. He had been general manager for only 18 months.

He said he did not know of the plan when Mr. Livermore said there might be evidence "that if there had been a second concrete staircase with doors on it kept closed, these 10 people on the fourth floor might not have been trapped."

#### "Conditioned for Fire"

Chief Fire Officer T. Kelly, of the Liverpool Fire Service, said it was the opinion of the fire authorities that for some time the building had been "slowly conditioned for fire". He explained that the store became very hot and as a result the false ceilings and other inflammable materials had become very dry "and in a prepared state for rapid burning."

Replying to Mr. George Waller, Q.C. (for the Fire Brigades Union), Mr. Kelly said he considered a store a greater risk than a factory.

He agreed that for the greater safety of the public, it would be desirable for fire authorities to have the right and duty of going to departmental stores and giving advice, and insisting on certain precautions.

Mr. Waller: With such powers, do you think the likelihood of a disaster such as this would be much reduced in the future?—I would expect so.

Chief Fire Officer Kelly stated that he had heard what steps Mr. Cannon took when the fire was discovered, and declared: "The correct thing was done."

#### Design of Staircases

Chief Officer Kelly was asked about the wooden staircase, and observed that it could be forgotten as a means of escape or for fire-fighting. The design was opposed to fire prevention, but he was not just criticising Henderson's, for many more buildings were like it.

Replying to Mr. H. Livermore, Chief Officer Kelly said he would not have been satisfied with the fire pre-

## FIGHTING AIRPORT FIRES

### London Crash Report: New Radio Guide in Fog

A DIRECT radio telephone link has been established at London Airport between the Air Traffic Control Tower and the vehicles of the Aerodrome Fire Service. This is to obviate the confusion that arose on a foggy night in January when a Viscount plane from Dublin landed in fog, ran on for 500 yards, its nose scraping the runway, and then caught fire: it had 54 passengers but no one was injured. The cause of the accident was failure on the part of Air Traffic Control to notify the pilot of a critical deterioration in runway visibility, this leading to an incorrect touchdown.

#### Failed to Find Fire

After the crash it took nine minutes for the first airport appliances to reach the burning plane, and the Station Fire Officer and other fire-fighting vehicles got lost in the fog. Some did not arrive till one hour, 20 minutes later.

In his report on the accident, Mr. J. W. Duggan, Deputy Chief Inspector of Accidents, Ministry of Aviation, stated that fog caused the delay in the arrival of the fire appliances. The airport instructions which were intended to guide, advised that in fog the Aerodrome Fire Service should communicate with Airfield Surface Movements Indicator (A.S.M.I.). This, with the aid of

R/T vehicles, would lead appliances to the scene by radar.

"The Station Fire Officer knew from his own observations that the visibility was not good. Therefore it would have been prudent for him to have requested guidance by A.S.M.I.", stated the report.

Had this been done, the vehicles could have reached the fire in not more than three minutes. This would have been instead of the eight-and-a-half minutes it took the first to arrive.

Four appliances ran out of water. Though the nearest hydrants were only 300 yards away, they could not be found in the fog until 8.30 p.m., an hour after the accident.

#### Ministry's Decision

The Ministry of Aviation states that to avoid a repetition, a direct radio telephone link had been established between the vehicles and the Air Traffic Control Tower. This enabled radar directions to be passed direct to the drivers.

In addition to the marking of hydrant positions, markings are being placed at runway edges opposite the hydrants. There will be a line running to them from the edge.

### Liverpool Store Fire Report, cont.

vention arrangements if they had been within his jurisdiction. He would have liked to be able to insist that the doors on the stone staircase were kept closed at all times, and to recommend that the escalator shaft be completely enclosed.

If there had been an additional concrete staircase in accordance with the plans, and the doors had been closed, there might have been a different story to tell.

#### No Fire Drill

Mr. Sidney Pearson, a joiner employed by the store, said in answer to Mr. Livermore, that he was a member of the fire fighting squad but they did not have any training or drill. Nor did they have any discussions.

Mr. Livermore: What is your opinion of a fire fighting squad that does not have any drill or practice or any discussion?—I should imagine it to be a pretty poor effort.

Mr. Livermore: That is an understatement.

Mr. Arthur Thomas Davies, assistant store manager at Henderson's, said there was a system of fire drill but he could not remember a drill taking place.

Mr. Davies, a member of the fire-fighting squad, said he thought that there was no practice because of pressure due to rebuilding. The store manager, Mr. Terry (one of the victims) had said there would be drill

once the store was completed.

Mr. Livermore: You realise that if the fire alarm had been sounded the lives of those 11 people would, in all probability, have been saved.

Mr. Davies: Yes, but it was not my duty to ring it. Mr. Cannon and Mr. Terry were at the scene.

Mr. Livermore: I am not making the slightest complaint about you. But what I am saying is there were no proper fire instructions given by Henderson's before the fire—only in the written instructions.

#### Cable Bent

Mr. D. A. Picken, one of H.M. Electrical Inspectors, said in his evidence that the fire must have originated in a fault in the armoured cable feeding the fourth floor lighting at the Richmond Street end of the store. The fault was of great severity and would ignite materials close to it. He put forward three possible ways in which the fault had arisen. One was that bending of the cable had damaged the paper insulation. Photographs showed that the cable had been bent more sharply than the minimum recommended radius for bending of the cable, 13 inches. Of the three possibilities bending seemed the most likely. It was unlikely that bending would produce such a fault, but it could do so, and in his opinion probably did.

#### "No Delay"

Insp. G. Hoyle, of Liverpool City Police, said he could find no alternative to the fire having been caused by a cable fault. Asked for his views on false ceilings, the inspector said: "They are the greatest menace in any store."

The inspector said that there had been no delay in sending for the fire service and there was no evidence that there was not sufficient fire-fighting equipment at the store. Although the death roll had been tragic, he said, it was remarkable that it was "so low." The speed of the fire seemed to have been "absolutely shattering."

Mr. Lewis Colin Grant, consulting engineer, whose firm for the past 20 years had been consulting engineers to Henderson's and had supervised the installation of electrical equipment, said: "We carried out tests ourselves on all the major parts of the equipment," and added: "I considered the tests were quite satisfactory."

Asked about the allegations that there had been a cable fault, Mr. Grant said the cable was working on less than one quarter of its maximum voltage. It was tested at the works twice.

After three hours' deliberation, the jury returned a verdict with recommendations as previously stated.

Security Gazette

# Fires in High Buildings

## Research Board's Study

**I**N its report for 1959, recently published by H.M. Stationery Office, the Fire Research Board referred to the special interest focussed on the fire hazard of tall blocks of flats now being built in increasing numbers. The Board is continuing its study of fires in high buildings, with particular reference to aspects of construction affecting rescue and escape from fire. So far, states the Board, no features peculiar to tall buildings—for example excessive upward spread of fire, difficulties of fire-fighting or rescue, or abnormal structural failures—have been brought to light.

The report notes that there were 132 fires in blocks of flats of six or more storeys in 1956; 105 were in buildings of pre-war construction. The only fire which caused severe damage was in a building erected in 1892 and was the result of malicious ignition. In all the post-war blocks the fires were confined to the compartment of origin. This was also the case in all but four of the pre-war blocks. The only fatality in high flats was caused by the ignition of clothing by an elderly person.

### Cooking Risks

As the result of a comprehensive analysis of fires in dwellings during a period of 12 months carried out by the Fire Research Station, it appears that risks associated with cooking appliances in post-war houses are three times greater when electricity is used compared with gas. In 1956 (the year for which the review was made) there were three to four gas cookers in use for every electric cooker but, despite this, only 17 per cent more fires originated in gas cookers. It is suggested that the explanation may be that there is a greater likelihood of food igniting in electric cookers. Eighty-six per cent of fires originating in electric cookers involved food as the material first ignited, compared with 63 per cent for gas. On the other hand, gas caused a greater proportion of the fires associated with clothing.

Nearly half of the 24,000 fires in British houses in 1956 were due to space-heating appliances.

### Hazards of Electricity

The Joint Fire Research Organisation also studied the fire hazards of electricity from September, 1957 to August, 1958. The analysis shows that 57 per cent of 6,489 fires connected with electrical appliances were in dwellings.

Factories used about double the amount of electricity supplied to domestic consumers yet they accounted for only 8.5 per cent of fires. This can possibly be explained by the fact that the main use of electricity in industry is as motive power, with an inherently lower fire risk as well as regular inspection of installations. On the other hand, the economic significance of an industrial fire is usually far greater than that of a domestic fire.

The report comments that some electrical appliances are becoming safer.

### Flame Resisting Tests

For some years there has been doubt as to the permanence of flame-retardant treatments for building materials. Recent tests at the Fire Research Station have helped to allay fears on this score. A number of treated surfaces have been exposed in offices for up to four years. Only one—a silicate painted surface—deteriorated after two years. Another kind of paint was found actually to improve with age.

Recent furnace tests on load-bearing concrete block walls have shown that their present ratings in the Bye-law Schedules are conservative, except for thin hollow blocks with flint gravel aggregate.

One form of perforated clay brick

has been shown to give adequate fire-resistance for multi-storey buildings; others are suitable for two-storey houses.

### Foam Injection

Regarding fires in petrol storage tanks, it is stated that there are obvious advantages in being able to inject foam into the base of the petrol storage tanks through the normal product pipe lines. Experiments with a 45ft. diameter tank have shown that the foam, if injected from a suitable point, on rising to the surface, will have the properties suitable for extinguishing fires.

### Clearing Streets for Fire Fighting

The Fire Research Station has begun a study of the relative efficiencies of a number of audible warning devices such as bells and klaxons. This is regarded as essential, since the progress of a fire appliance through traffic depends, to some extent, on the audibility of its warning system to other road users. The worst conditions for the audibility of warning devices are usually within the cab of a heavy lorry. With the co-operation of the Road Research laboratory, recordings of appropriate background noise have been made and will be used in a series of tests in which recordings of the warning device will be injected, at various levels, into the background noise.

## GAS CYLINDER STORAGE

### Fire Chief on Risks

**T**HE Fire Brigades of the country have been more in the public eye than ever before, excepting for the Blitz periods of the war years, comments Mr. F. W. Brown, Chief Officer of Burnley Fire Brigade, in his annual report for 1959. A record number of calls and the large number of spectacular fires all contributed to last year's situation. He is convinced that the Services are more efficient than ever before.

Whether they are sufficient, however, to cope with the fast increasing number and variety of fire protection problems arising from an industrial age, demands thorough enquiry. An efficient and adequately staffed fire prevention and protection service is vitally necessary, says Mr. Brown, to the local and national safety and provides the finest insurance.

The Brigade during the year dealt with a record number of fires in its area, 435 as against 384 last year. By far the highest single cause of fires

was children with matches, and although many of these involved grass, rubbish, etc., the number obviously lit to cause damage to derelict buildings, timber huts, and occasionally valuable property, caused concern.

The enormous amount of publicity given to the use of certain types of paraffin heaters focussed public attention on the danger that could arise in use, but there was little evidence of increased care in the use and storage of paraffin generally.

Another development fast increasing is the use of gases, mostly inflammable, stored at high pressure in cylinders. Gas cylinders of all types are now to be found in most workshops, many small garages, huts, scrap yards, shops, caravans, etc., and unless the occupiers are present there is nothing to inform the Brigade of the risk, nor are their any regulations covering their storage.

*Cont. on p. 307*



# MONTHLY DIARY

By Security Chief

## Searching by a Private Person

**T**HAT vexed question, "How far can a security officer go in carrying out a search of an employee?" was brought to the forefront last month.

With my company we have a set of printed rules, the observance of which is a condition of employment. Included in these rules is one on searching, which, in effect, says that an employee, when on the company's premises, must be prepared to show, if necessary by permitting himself to be searched by an authorised person, that he is not in possession of property to which he is not entitled. But this does not permit the forcible search of an employee who refuses to submit. Counsel's opinion on the validity of this rule is that a clause requiring an employee to submit to search is not illegal, and that being for the benefit of both employer and employee, is not contrary to public policy. It is considered that in the event of an employee, who has signed a form agreeing to such a rule among the terms of engagement, refusing to submit to search, the agreement is at an end and the employer is entitled to dismiss him.

## The Diffident Employee

The case I quote is one of an employee with a bulging pocket, who was called into the gate office to submit to the searching procedure and who refused to produce what he had in his pocket. Under Common Law a British subject has a right of search of every person he arrests for felony, to detain property material to a charge and also to take away anything with which that person might injure himself. This employee, so far as it was known, had not committed a felony, and all that he had done was to violate his terms of employment. The position in which the security officer found himself was a delicate one, as he did not want to recommend dismissal and have to release the employee without knowing what he had in his pocket, which might have been stolen property.

The seriousness of the position was explained to the employee, who remained adamant in that he did not intend to show what he had in his pocket and he threatened he would take an action against those concerned if any attempt was made to take what he had by the use of force.

Remembering that a sworn constable may arrest a person whom he

suspects on reasonable grounds, or who is charged by a reasonable person, of having committed a felony, whether a felony has been committed or not, the security officer decided to call the man's bluff and promptly telephoned the local police station for help. On the appearance of the man in blue a few minutes later, the employee quickly changed his mind and produced from his pocket a clock-bag as used by bookmakers' runners full of betting slips and cash.

As this was obviously not a matter which could be taken before a Magistrates court—no offence had been committed except under works rules—the employee received dismissal notice.

## The Ring Thief

Humans never like admitting defeat. But the following facts, although somewhat embarrassing to me, might be construed as a warning to security officers when carrying out properly conducted searches of personnel.

Before I became "industrialised" and while serving with a well-known police force, I received information that a known housebreaker intended to dispose of a valuable ring stolen by means of housebreaking to a local old-gold buyer. Keeping observation on the old-gold buyer's premises, I accosted my man as he was about to enter the shop and "invited" him to accompany me to the police station some 400 yards distant. A colleague followed behind to make sure our housebreaker did not drop anything during the short walk. Inside the police station the accused was searched and his clothing removed until he stood in his "birthday suit", but no trace of the ring could be found and, of course, our prisoner protested his innocence. I knew I was defeated, so had to release him with an appropriate apology and the price of a substantial meal.

I had been retired just six months when I next saw this man. He approached me in the street and after exchanging pleasantries he referred to the incident described and said, "Blimey, you're a fine cop. I had that ring on me all the time." Naturally I was interested in its hiding place, so quizzed my companion further. His actual words then were, "You remember taking my slacks off? They were a bit loose so you only undid the top two or three buttons and they fell off me. Blimey, was I frightened you were going to undo all the fly

buttons, because that there ring you was after was buttoned up in the bottom button!"

Incidentally, when searching for similar articles nowadays I always look behind trouser fly-buttons—but again I am often defeated—and this time by those who incorporate zip fasteners in their dress.

## Factory Road Accidents

Section 257 of the Road Traffic Act 1960, defines a road as any highway and any other road to which the public has access, and includes bridges over which a road passes.

It has been held that a road within the fenced boundaries of a factory, the factory being accessible only to those with passes, is not a road within this definition.

So how do we go about dealing with collisions involving injury to persons or where damage results to one or both vehicles and sometimes company property? Because a road within the fenced boundary of a factory is not a "road" within the meaning of the Road Traffic Act, it is not obligatory to report the facts to the police. Nevertheless, help is provided by the Security Department in pursuing enquiries to trace the driver of a "hit and run" vehicle and by helping others to exchange particulars so that claims can be made and dealt with by their respective insurers. But when a company vehicle is concerned, then, in order that the appropriate claim can be made, the following particulars must be included in the security officer's report:

1. *Date, day and hour.*
2. *Place of occurrence.*
3. *Description of each vehicle concerned, e.g., make, whether lorry or private car, and the index marks.*
4. *Name and address of owner of each vehicle.*
5. *Name and address of each driver and, if available, particulars of driving licence and insurance certificate.*
6. *Direction in which each vehicle was proceeding and its position on the road (a rough sketch always helps).*
7. *Condition of roadway, good, bad, indifferent, wet or dry.*
8. *Cause of accident.*
9. *Result of accident involving:*  
(a) Personal injury—particulars of such person and injuries sustained; (b) Damage to property or vehicle.
10. *Witnesses—Name and address of any witness should be noted with a brief record of what he saw.*
11. *Opinion of security officer reporting on the cause.*



And if all these particulars are obtained on the spot, then the security officer reporting can be assured he is earmarked for promotion.

#### **Road Offences on Factory Premises**

Inside any large factory the person responsible for security is faced with all kinds of incidents concerned with mechanically propelled vehicles which, if they happened on a public road, might result in the drivers facing charges before the local magistrates. I mean such incidents as the "taking" of a motor-cycle by a non-insured employee for a drive round the works during the lunch hour; a motorist permits a friend, who again does not hold a driving licence and is not insured, to drive his car on factory roads, and a lazy worker who buys an old car and leaves it tucked away in a remote spot of the works for a time and drives it away without having insured it or paid the appropriate road tax.

Suppose any of these three types of persons knocked down and injured another employee? What redress has the injured person? In most cases none, unless civil action is taken. And can any management close a blind eye to happenings like this? Of course not, so an established practice has been introduced by bringing an accused employee before a small committee, with a senior management official acting as chairman. The dangers of practices of this kind are pointed out to the accused and he is asked for an explanation of his conduct. In bad cases, and this includes those who drive carelessly, dangerously, or infringe the speed regulations, such an accused would be prohibited from driving a motor vehicle on the factory roads for a period of one to six months, according to the gravity of the offence.

#### **COURAGEOUS MANCHESTER P.Cs.**

Two Manchester City constables, Kenneth Steward and Gordon Aston, have been commended for courageous conduct in dealing with an affray on the night of 2nd July. Between 150 and 200 people were assembled, youths were fighting and traffic was brought to a standstill. Attempting to restore order, the constables were manhandled and Aston was pushed through a plate glass window and his finger broken.

At the Crown Court on 27th July, seven of the prisoners were convicted of making an affray. The foreman of the jury said: "The jury wishes me to say that in its opinion Police Constables Steward and Aston are deserving of the highest praise for their courage in attempting to break up the affray."

October, 1960

Fire Reports, cont. from p. 305

## **OIL STORAGE DANGERS Fire Prevention Guidance**

**I**N view of the marked concern of fire authorities for the safe storage of the country's growing stocks of petroleum spirit and petroleum mixture, the issue by the Fire Protection Association of a new revised edition of their booklet on the subject could not have been better timed. It gives guidance on the required safety provisions for all quantities in storage. We learn that, up to three gallons, storage of the spirit needs no licence, provided that the containers are not more than pint-sized and are securely stoppered.

Up to 60 gallons the store has to be in the open air or effectively ventilated to the open air, have an exit to the open air, be provided with means of extinguishing a petroleum fire and be properly separated from dwelling quarters. All other kinds of storage require licences from the local authority, who will impose conditions as to drums and cans, ventilation, flame-proof lighting, notices and the like.

#### **Value of Foam Appliances**

The handbook goes on to give details of desirable equipment and precautions for filling stations, distributing depots and major installations. It recommends that large storage tanks should be protected by fixed foam installations. Foam is generally considered to be the most suitable medium for extinguishing fires in large quantities of petroleum spirit. While warning of the danger from burning petroleum spirit carried on the surface of water, the book insists that, in the event of fire, ample quantities of water will be required for cooling purposes and for the production of foam. It suggests that fire hose couplings should be interchangeable within the depot and with those of the local fire brigade and of neighbouring depots.

Particulars are given of the best type of extinguishers to have on hand for dealing with small spirit fires and a useful list of substances having a flash point below 73 degrees F. completes a practical and compact work.

#### **BREATHING APPARATUS Most Firemen To Be Trained**

**I**N a circular to all fire brigade authorities, the Home Secretary refers to the need for sufficient firemen to be trained as breathing apparatus wearers to ensure that there are at least two trained men always available to ride on appliances which carry sets. To meet this requirement it states that it is clear that the majority of whole time firemen, though not necessarily all, should be trained to wear breathing apparatus.

The need for men with advanced training in breathing apparatus would appear to be confined to the larger Brigade running emergency tenders, the crews of which require to be highly skilled not only as breathing apparatus operators, but also in the use of the specialised equipment and tools carried on these appliances.

It is suggested that normally a recruit should have had at least 18 months experience on an operational station before attending a course on the apparatus; and until he has attended a basic training course a man should not wear breathing apparatus at fires.

Breathing apparatus wearers, it is thought, should not be singled out for special medical examination since it is reasonable to assume that a man who is fit for fire fighting duties will

also be fit to wear breathing apparatus.

A man may, however, be temperamentally unsuited to breathing apparatus work because of claustrophobia or some similar tendency. Although the number of firemen possessing unsuitable temperament is likely to be small, it is considered that instructors supervising breathing apparatus training should keep a very careful watch on trainees so that any man who shows himself to be temperamentally unsuited to the work may be withdrawn from the course.

#### **Grandstand Destroyed**

Thirteen hours after the end of Darlington Football Club's first game on 19th September under floodlights—a £15,000 gift to the Club from the Supporters' Auxiliary Association—the west stand at their ground, Feethams, was destroyed by fire. Ground equipment, including lawn mowers and line markers, which was stored underneath the seating at the back of the stand, was also destroyed. Damage is estimated at about £15,000. The cause of the fire is thought to have been a carelessly dropped light.

# CRIME—NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL

## Conclusions of a Famous French Detective

In a recent address to French social workers in Paris, reproduced in our September issue, M. Jean Nepote, Deputy Secretary General of Interpol, described post-war developments of crime in France, with particular reference to the spate of political murders by North Africans on the one hand and the beneficial effect of increasing public sobriety on the other. In this second and concluding instalment he continues his fascinating examination of criminal trends, dealing especially with the evidence of gangsterism and organised crime.

It was most interesting to note, stated M. Nepote, that, as compared with 1938, the number of people convicted of simple theft had fallen considerably—from 45,540 to 33,511—while the number convicted of aggravated theft had greatly increased—from 162 to 216. No doubt this was due to the fact that forms of theft were now termed "aggravated" so that their perpetrators could be more severely punished.

The "efficiency ratio" of police investigations was lower for theft than for any other type of offence. In 1958, there were 266,846 cases investigated, 69,100 cases solved and 64,936 people brought to trial. We must, however, bear in mind that thieves were often habitual criminals and generally committed several thefts before being arrested.

### Gangsters at Work

Among the different types of theft, burglary and housebreaking accounted for a growing number of offences. In the Seine department alone, the number of burglaries or housebreakings recorded increased from 5,541 in 1938 and 8,249 in 1954 to 13,304 in 1958.

M. Nepote considered the increase most significant. He added:

"The most spectacular form of theft is undoubtedly the hold-up. This consists of a carefully prepared armed attack, carried out by resolute criminals. Gangsters try to avoid shooting people, but often fire to cover their retreat or to induce a recalcitrant victim to part with his money if it appears necessary. There were 200 cases in 1950 and 112 in 1956.



*The keeping of detailed facts is of vital importance to national co-operation.*

### Ingenious Swindlers

It might be thought that in a civilized country, where there is considerable commercial and business activity, swindling and fraud would be one of the most important forms of crime. On the contrary, the police in France dealt with an average of 55,000 such cases a year, only one-fifth of the number of cases of theft. Of those 55,000 cases, half were concerned with the uttering of worthless cheques.

The "efficiency coefficient" of the police was especially high in regard to this type of offence because the swindler was obliged to show himself to his victims.

"Swindlers have an infinite number of tricks and their ingenuity is only equalled by the credulity of their victims," said M. Nepote. "This credulity can reach alarming proportions even among people who should know better. I hesitate to quote a list of examples but I cannot resist mentioning the crook who managed to obtain \$680,000 from a banker by 'selling' him ships with a cargo of rice which had never been near the sea.

"The range of swindlers extends from people who sell goods which are never delivered to the extremely skilful semi-conjurors who substitute worthless articles for those they claim to be selling. Swindling is a highly-developed form of crime and it is therefore natural that its adepts should be in the minority among criminals.

"Making entirely false articles requires greater audacity and more extensive means than altering existing ones and the manufacturing is generally confined to money and other documents of value or, sometimes passports."

### Clever Counterfeiters

Over the last fifteen years, added M. Nepote, about fifty different types of false dollars, Swiss francs or French francs which were extremely difficult to detect and which could now be found all over the



*The headquarters in Paris of the Interpol network.*

Answering the question, "Are criminals more scientific and technical in their approach to crime today?" M. Nepote said one fact was certain: criminals were making ever-increasing use of the instruments created by science for the benefit of mankind.

A particularly good example was their use of cars for thefts, hold-ups, escapes and crossing frontiers.

Forgers used the best photo-engraving and reproduction processes for their work.

Safe-breakers tended to use the most recently-developed electric drills or oxy-acetylene blow-lamps since these enable them to work most rapidly.

There had also been armed attacks or thefts committed on board planes in flight. On one occasion the gangsters forced a plane which had a cargo of gold to land on an emergency field, made the passengers get out and absconded with the gold.

#### **Organised Crime**

Of the 191,078 people convicted of crimes in 1956, most were isolated offenders, said M. Nepote. Nevertheless, it could not be denied that some types of crime were organised and that some offences would not be committed if there were not a form of criminal organisation.

"By this," he added, "I mean that certain types of crime only exist because there are miniature societies in which each criminal has his appointed tasks, where certain rules are observed and where a particular conception of honour is held. A number of offences can only be committed because there are accomplices or accessories.

"It is clear, therefore, that the most highly developed forms of crime result in the creation of a sort of clandestine society which exists alongside normal society. From this point of view, it seems that French crime is quite well organized.

Discussing whether the position was more alarming than before the war, M. Nepote remarked that it

*continued on p. 312*

world, were made in France.

One type of forgery which appeared particularly well suited to French talents was the imitation of paintings by famous artists; these often originated in Paris. Dealing with offences against controls and regulations, M. Nepote observed that people did not feel like criminals if they were defrauding the state or the tax authorities. The number of undiscovered offences of this class must also be considerable.

#### **Trustworthy Public Servants**

On the other hand, it was encouraging to see that the number of offences connected with the holding of public office—embezzlement of public funds, forgery of public documents, etc.—only added up to a dozen or so cases a year. This meant that the country was served by a trustworthy body of people and that all that was heard about the strong traditions of government service was justified by the facts.

Whereas in some countries extor-

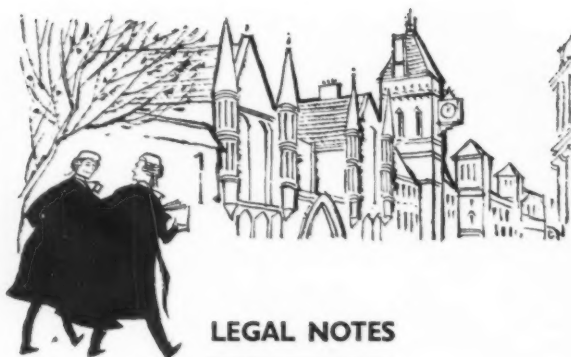
tion by public officials and the maladministration of justice were so widespread that they paralysed all public activity, this type of crime hardly existed in France. M. Nepote paid high tribute to the integrity of French civil servants.

#### **Good Citizenship Difficult**

Referring to other offences connected with hunting, fishing, gambling, traffic and the like, M. Nepote said they formed a category which might be classed under the heading "administrative crime" and was probably one of the most characteristic facts about life in the 20th century. Today, there were rules applying to every department of life and the likelihood of breaking some of them was so great that it was not easy to be an honest citizen.

The police intervened in about 250,000 such cases a year and took about 120,000 people to court. But if all such offences were known and recorded, what would the figure be? asked M. Nepote.





## LEGAL NOTES

# THE LAW AND THE TRESPASSER

By a Legal Correspondent

Trespass has been no crime in England for upwards of 250 years, though the warning "Trespassers Will Be Prosecuted" persists as obstinately as ever. Around it have grown many obscurities and misconceptions. Our correspondent discusses some of them from the points of view of owners of property and of officers responsible for its protection.

It is now almost a journalist's cliché that, although they may be sued, Trespassers Will Not be Prosecuted. Notices announcing that trespassers will be prosecuted, however, still go up; indeed recent years have seen a variation announcing with an impartial disregard alike of fact and law that "the police have instructions to take proceedings against persons found trespassing on this site".

Presumably, even if those who erect the notices do not believe them, they expect that those who read them will. They are almost certainly wrong; but the journalist's cliché does not tell the whole truth and it may, therefore, be helpful to dispose of the legends and set out the correct legal position.

The ordinary man thinks of the trespasser as a person who wrongfully goes on to, or remains on, the land of another and it is with that kind of trespass that this article will deal. It is, however, worth bearing in mind that the law recognises as civil wrongs both trespass to the person and trespass to goods: for trespass—as anyone familiar with the prayer book knows, the word means "transgression"—was originally the name for all wrongs where the injury inflicted was the direct, as distinct from the consequential, result and, for the lawyer, it has not altogether lost that original meaning. Trespass on land itself can, moreover, be committed in other ways than by physical entry on land: thus a man commits trespass on his neighbour's land if he allows his dog to go on to it or throws a stone over the fence; trespass can be committed not only on the surface of the land but on the subsoil beneath and the air space above it; and one can trespass in a house or building, and even on the highway itself, just as much as one can trespass on land.

## "Interference with Possession"

In law, therefore, trespass to land is something more than entry upon it and is more correctly described as unauthorised interference with the possession of land. Originally it was punishable as well as actionable, but it has not been a crime since 1694 and, so far as the common law is concerned, the journalist is right in thinking that the landowner's notice is an empty threat. There are other misconceptions. It is, for example, a common belief that one may lawfully trespass on the land of another so long as one does not do any damage to it and that one cannot in any event be sued for trespass unless the owner has exhibited a warning notice. The truth is that, as trespass constitutes merely the act of interference with the possession of the land (and not damage to it), it is actionable without proof of damage; and, for the same reason, it is no defence that the trespasser had no warning (or, in other words, one may trespass even if one does not know that one is trespassing).

## Common Misconceptions

It is probably also the common belief that the person whom the law will protect against the trespasser is the owner of the land itself. This is not necessarily the case. As trespass is interference with possession, it is the possessor of the land who is entitled to the law's protection. If, therefore, the land is let, it is the lessee, and not the owner, who has a right of action against the trespasser. Moreover, the man in possession will be entitled to relief even if he is not himself in law entitled to possession, for the law recognises his right, as the possessor of the land, to exclude from it as a trespasser everyone except the lawful owner.

For the same reasons, neither the guest in a private house nor the lodger at an inn or boarding house nor the independent contractor operating on a site has as such any right to exclude the trespasser—the possessor of the land being the man who is entitled to exclude others from it; but any one of them may, of course, be entitled to exclude trespassers in his capacity as agent of the possessor.

## Authorised Entry

In the same capacity, and only in that capacity, the lodger, the guest and the independent contractor may authorise entry on land which would in the absence of permission constitute a trespass—for, it will be remembered, it is only unauthorised interference which constitutes trespass and, obviously enough, authority to enter may be given by or on behalf of the occupier of the land in the form of permission granted to another, either expressly or by implication, to come on to the land. This apparently simple statement conceals, however, one of the most controversial problems of this branch of the law: it is clear that, once permission has been withdrawn, the man to whom it was granted becomes a trespasser if he does not leave; but it is not at all clear whether and in what circumstances the occupier of the land may withdraw the permission he gave. This is, however, no place to canvass the refinements of the problem and it is necessary here to say only that they may safely be ignored in the ordinary case where the occupier has done no more than give permission to another to come on to his land (and has



not, for example, charged him a fee as the price of admission to it).

Authority to enter on private property may also be given without the consent of the occupier by the law itself. The authority is, however, in all cases given for a specific purpose and any abuse of the authority to enter for that purpose produces the result that the person to whom it was given will be deemed to have been a trespasser from the moment of his entry on the land (and not merely, that is to say, from the moment when he abused his authority to enter on it).

#### **Where Trespass is Trespass**

It is still, however, a criminal offence for an occupier to obstruct an official so authorised, and it may, therefore, appear that the criminal law is more concerned to protect the right of entry on to private property than the right to exclude the trespasser from it. This is not altogether true. In the first place, there are a number of statutory provisions making even simple trespass an offence. The most familiar are probably those prohibiting trespass on railway property and there are similar provisions extending to airfields (where, however, proper warning notices have to be exhibited), merchant ships, factories and stores containing explosives and army camps during manoeuvres.

It is also probably a conspiracy at common law for two or more persons to agree to trespass on the land of another; for example, some of the people who, immediately after the war, acted in concert to take over empty requisitioned property in order to house the homeless were, in the case of *R. v. Bramley and Others* in 1946, convicted of such a conspiracy. There was no appeal against the conviction; but the common law treats a number of agreements to commit civil wrongs as indictable conspiracies notwithstanding that even the commission of the wrong itself would not be an offence and, although there are conflicting decisions on the point, the better view seems to be that an agreement to commit a civil trespass would be so indictable.

#### **Remedies Against Offenders**

All these provisions deal with simple trespass, that is to say, merely with unauthorised entry on land, and ignore both the trespasser's object in going on the land and what he does when he gets there. The trespasser who commits an offence on the land will, of course, be liable to be charged with that offence; and, if he is trespassing in a building with intent to commit a felony, or commits a felony when he is in it, he may be committing an offence against the provisions of the Larceny Act which deal with burglary and housebreaking. Generally speaking, however, the remedies against the trespasser will be civil rather than criminal. Trespass is a tort and the ordinary civil remedies are available to the person wronged, including in particular an injunction prohibiting repetition of the act and an award of damages (the amount recoverable being measured by the diminution in the value of the land caused by the trespass, which in the case of a straightforward trespass in the ordinary sense of the word would of course be negligible).

#### **Ejection by Force**

There are also other remedies, such as the action for ejectment and the action for mesne profits, which are not very relevant within the present context except in

so far as they reflect the history of the tort of trespass; for this branch of the law was, historically, concerned less with the man taking a short cut across the farmer's meadow than with the exercise of their powers of distress by landlords and other creditors and (to take a topical example) the eviction from his flat of a tenant whose landlord has obtained an order for its possession.

It is possibly for this historical reason that any account of the remedies available in the courts must appear, at least at first sight, of little practical assistance to the ordinary householder or (to take one example) building contractor whose concern is to keep out the casual, but not criminally-minded intruder. For him the practical remedy is, however, short and simple: if a man comes on to his land without permission and refuses to leave when he is required to do so, he may lawfully be removed by the use of such force as is necessary to expel him; but that remedy is available simply because the trespasser is interfering unlawfully with the possession of land, and accordingly exposing himself to the more formal and elaborate remedies administered by the courts.

#### **Rights of Entry**

The common law recognises a number of rights of entry, the most important, for the purpose of this article, being the rights enjoyed by the police. Anyone may go on to the land of another to prevent the commission of (certainly) murder and (probably) any other felony or to pursue and arrest the offender if felony has already been committed; a police officer may also, if he is refused admission, break and enter premises in order to execute a warrant to arrest or search. In short, the power to enter on to the land of another is a necessary incident of the powers of arrest and search.

A police officer may also enter and remain on private premises at which a public meeting is being held if he has reasonable grounds for believing that if he were not present seditious speeches would be made or a breach of the peace would occur. He has otherwise, however, no more right to remain on private premises than anyone else, even if he is acting in the execution of his duty. Thus, it has been held that no damages could be recovered for his injuries by a police officer who was injured by falling into an unfenced sawpit when he went into a warehouse at night after finding a door left open: so far as the owner of the warehouse was concerned, the officer was a trespasser and there was, therefore, no duty to make the place safe for him.

For everyone except the police officer, however, the statutory rights of entry are more numerous and more important. The right that will, perhaps, spring most readily to the mind of the reader of this article is the right to enter on to private premises to extinguish or prevent a fire. That right is conferred by Section 30 (1) of the Fire Services Act, 1947, on any member of a local authority fire brigade who is on duty, any member of a private fire brigade acting in pursuance of arrangements made under the Act (that is to say, with the local authority) and any police officer; the right is to enter and, if necessary, break into any premises or place in which a fire has or is reasonably believed to have broken out, or any premises or place which it is necessary to enter for the purposes of extinguishing a fire or of protecting the premises or place from acts

### Legal Notes, cont.

done for fire-fighting purposes, without the consent of the owner or occupier.

The general public is probably more familiar with the rights of entry enjoyed by such persons as factory inspectors and, more particularly, officials of gas and electricity boards. There was a sharp increase in the number of officials to whom such rights were given immediately after the war and, as a result of public criticism of the extent of their powers, the current statutory practice is to permit them to exercise their rights of entry only in pursuance of a warrant and after notice to the occupier.

### STRENGTHENING PATROLS

**E**XTENDING an experiment first started two years ago, the Metropolitan Police are closing six more police stations at night so as to release men for patrol duties. It will mean an addition of 125 men on street duty. A start was made by closing the Isle of Dogs station, and the scheme will take in Penge, Bushey, Cobham, Banstead, and New Southgate, all in the Outer London ring.

At the closed stations a telephone for public use, connected to the chief station in the area, will be put in a cabinet in the wall or in a kiosk outside. Public calls to the closed stations will be diverted by the G.P.O. to another one.

It is considered that the extra police on patrol will contribute more to public safety than an open station. People are more likely to seek help by a 999 telephone call than by going to the local stations.

### Crime—National and International, cont. from p. 309

probably was. The Sûreté Nationale had found it necessary to form special units to combat gangsters and the Paris Prefecture of Police had formed its special brigades, each covering a particular area.

#### National "Specialists"

Some social groups appeared more likely to commit certain types of crime than others, said M. Nepote. Among pickpockets, for instance, those of Rumanian origin often had most dexterity. Some of the best burglars in Paris were refugees of Spanish origin. The Parisians and people who came from Marseilles were excellent currency forgers. And, finally, it was an undeniable fact that many of the heads of gangs which trafficked in drugs or women were Corsicans.

The crime index was five per cent higher among North Africans than among the rest of the French.

A certain number of displaced persons and stateless citizens who had been torn from their native environment by war or revolution took to crime in their adopted

country. France was known as a country which welcomed refugees and it had a particularly high figure for "foreign" criminals.

#### International Crime

As to whether crime in France was connected with international crime, M. Nepote said his position at Interpol enabled him to answer without the slightest hesitation. Some offences could not but be international.

This internationalization of crime had been increased by the political, economic and social upheavals which had brought a flow of refugees to France. Some of these refugees were socially maladjusted and ended by swelling the ranks of criminals.

#### Youth and Age

The figures showed that the volume of juvenile delinquency had not varied greatly since before the war. Today the crucial age for crime was between 18 and 20, and no talk of percentages and the general increase in population could soften

this fact. A certain wave of brutality seemed to be spreading among some groups of young people. What was the cause of this situation?

There were probably a number of reasons, including the raising of the school-leaving age which left young people idle during part of the year, the lack of organised leisure activities, the desire of adolescents to be independent of their families and, a fact which he, as a father, thought most important of all, the unwillingness of a great many parents to do their job.

A most interesting experiment was conducted last summer by the criminal investigation department of the Sûreté Nationale which sent a team to study the behaviour of young people on the Riviera, from the criminological standpoint. It would take too long and would also be both indiscreet and premature to give the results of their research here. He could say, however, that the investigators discovered a thoroughly criminogenic society and a number of young people in a pre-delinquent state.

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

### POWER OF SEARCH AND ARREST

Dear Sir,—I have read with much interest the Legal Notes in this month's issue of the *Security Gazette* and, in particular, the concluding paragraph dealing with S.66 of the Metropolitan Police Act, 1839.

I wonder if your contributor is aware that Birmingham has a similar provision in S.137 of the Birmingham Corporation (Consolidation) Act 1883, which also gives power to an owner of premises or his servant to apprehend any person for *any offence* committed on or with respect to those premises.

A most useful enactment for Birmingham Security Officers!

Yours sincerely,

T. GUY SANDERS.

Birmingham,  
September, 1960.

#### Our Legal Contributor writes :

The omission of any reference to the powers of police forces outside London was inadvertent. Although it is, of course, only local in its application, the Metropolitan Police Act, 1839, is a Public and General Act; the powers enjoyed by other police forces (there are some eight which enjoy powers analogous to those conferred by Section 66 of the Metropolitan Police Act) are conferred by local Acts and they are, in consequence, very much more difficult to trace. Clearly, however, the article should have contained some reference to them and your readers will be grateful to Mr. Sanders for drawing attention to the point.



## National Organisation in Sight

### Establishing Third Branch in London

**T**HE Industrial Police Association, since its formation in July, 1958, has attained a current membership of 1,150, has set up two Branches (one in the Midlands and one in Lancashire) and is now in course of establishing a third branch in the London area. Immediately this has been done, a National Council will be set up in accordance with the constitution and rules of the Association. Work will then go ahead to establish new branches in other regions of the British Isles, until finally it is hoped that the Association, through its National Council, will be truly representative of the industrial security profession in this country.

#### Attitude to Crime and Fire

Criminal statistics for England and Wales for the year 1959 show yet another all round increase in indictable offences known to the police; national fire losses in 1959 soared to an all time record figure of over £44 million, and the first six months of 1960 continue to reflect an increase which, if continued, will produce a figure exceeding £50 million for the current year. H.M. Chief Inspector of Factories reports still more industrial accidents in 1959.

These facts alone, quite apart from other considerations, emphasise the urgent need for increased efficiency, greater knowledge, better organisation and more effective liaison in the industrial security profession. The Industrial Police Association is tackling these problems with energetic realism and its achievements in this field cannot fail to benefit both individual members and industrial managements alike.

In all quarters where responsibilities in connection with crime, fire, and accident prevention have to be accepted, the wind of change is sure to blow—we

October, 1960

believe this to be inevitable—and it is by no means inconceivable that the industrial police and security officer may experience an uncomfortable draught in this process.

It has been said before in the columns of the *Security Gazette*, and we have no hesitation in repeating the words, that the degree of success which the Industrial Police Association will achieve in the critical years which lie ahead, will largely depend upon the measure of support which it receives from members of the profession everywhere.

*Security Officers are strongly advised, therefore, to assist in making effective as soon as possible their own professional association by joining if they are not already members, and by introducing their colleagues if they themselves are already members.*

The correct addresses for correspondence to the Association are as follows:

From:

#### No. 10 Lancashire Region

i.e. the counties of Lancashire, Cheshire, and Derbyshire (north of a line from Congleton to Sheffield).

To:

Mr. A. D. Bullock, Chairman, The Industrial Police Association, No. 10 Lancashire Region, 8 Pitville Avenue, Mossley Hill, Liverpool, 18.

Application for membership to:—

Mr. A. Parker, Honorary Secretary, 20, Balmoral Avenue, Leyland, Lancs.

From:

#### No. 9 Midland Region, and all other regions of the British Isles, except No. 10 Region.

To:

Mr. D. V. Young, M.B.E., Chairman, The Industrial Police Association, No. 9 Midland Region, 20 Wycome Road, Hall Green, Birmingham, 28.

### No. 10 LANCASHIRE REGION BRANCH

The council of No. 10 Lancashire Region Branch announces that arrangements have been made to hold a social evening for members of No. 10 Region at the Lightbourne Hotel, Lightbourne Road, Manchester, 10, on the evening of Thursday, 6th October, starting at 7.0 p.m. The Lightbourne Hotel is 11 minutes from the City centre by Nos. 54, 88 or 118 buses. The chairman and council hope that as many Association members as possible will make an effort to be present at this event. It is hoped to form small discussion groups to discuss and provide members' views on matters of interest and concern to the Association's future in No. 10 Region.

Membership of No. 10 Lancashire Region Branch now stands at 254. Will members and prospective members please note that all future correspondence relating to membership, subscriptions, and badges should be addressed direct to the Hon. Secretary, Mr. A. Parker, 20 Balmoral Avenue, Leyland, Lancs., as this will save postage and also avoid delay.

### OBITUARY

The chairman and council of the whole Lancashire Region Branch record with sincere regret the death of Association member Mr. R. W. Stewart, M.M., of 109 Brook Hey Drive, Northwood, Kirkby, Liverpool.



## ECHO OF BULLION RAID

### Gelignite in Car

A REMAND was ordered by the Walsall magistrate after evidence had been given on two burglary charges against John T. Fricker, 34, of Upper Berkeley Street, London, W. The first charge alleged that on 3rd March, he broke into the jewellery factory of Vale and Weetman Ltd., of Vyse Street, Birmingham, and stole gold bullion, insurance stamps, and Premium Bonds, of the total value £7,095.

Fricker was also charged with breaking into the shop of the West Midlands Press Ltd. and stealing fountain pens worth £380; breaking into the shoe shop of Van Twist in Lower Bridge Street, Walsall, and stealing £4 16s.; and taking a car without the owner's consent.

Mr. Derek Wassall, prosecuting, said that four wet blankets were used to deaden the sound of the explosion at the Birmingham premises. Three days later James W. Wood, a van driver, employed by *The Walsall Observer*, was cleaning the premises on a Sunday afternoon when he found Fricker crouching in the stationery shop. There was a struggle, and Fricker eventually escaped, leaving his overcoat and a shoe behind. It was alleged that Fricker then took from the town centre a car which was found abandoned in Paddington, London.

#### Found in Coat Pocket

Detectives found ignition keys in the overcoat pocket and traced them to a car parked in front of a Walsall hotel. That car had been hired by Fricker from a Northampton firm after his own car had been in an accident near the M1 and taken to a Northampton garage.

In the boot of the car abandoned in Walsall a wet blanket and other articles were found and these were shown to bear traces of gelignite. In the car which Fricker had left at Northampton were gold articles, some of which were manufactured only by Vale and Weetman.

When Fricker was seen by Det.-Insp. R. Lester, of Walsall, he denied

having broken into the Walsall shops, and asked: "Would I be stealing pens in Walsall if I had £10,000 in gold from Birmingham a week before?"

James W. Wood, of Beatrice Street, Walsall, gave evidence of finding Fricker in *The Walsall Observer* shop and struggling with him. He said he shouted for help and in the struggle pulled the overcoat off Fricker, who also left a shoe behind.

Answering Mr. J. Langley, defending, Wood said that Fricker did not attack him but was trying to escape. The hearing was adjourned.

### SECURITY OFFICER'S THEFTS

AT East Ham recently a security officer was sent to prison for six months for stealing 24 pairs of nylon stockings and two nylon skirts which belonged to his employers, the Cunard Steamship Company. The officer, Thomas Albert Allum, aged 54, pleaded not guilty.

It was stated in court that because of his bulky appearance Allum was stopped as he left the Royal Albert Dock and the articles were found beneath his clothing. Allum said that he found them in a shed, and as the office was closed he was taking them home, intending to return them the next day.

## In the Courts

### Hoped to Sell Safe-Breaking Material

IN an unusual case at the Old Bailey last month, three men were jailed for 30 months and two others bound over for possessing 127 sticks of gelignite, 86 detonators, a dynamo exploder, and a quantity of flex. They had brought the materials from Birmingham and were discovered when a constable found their car parked near 10 Downing Street at 2.35 a.m. on 1st July.

The men, it was said, came into possession of the materials from a certain Lenny Davis, known to the Birmingham police, who died in May. They hoped to sell them to safe-breaking gangs. Det. Ch. Insp. A. Gibson said he had reason to believe they were stolen from a Stourbridge quarry. The men, he thought, were only small fry, but two of them knew likely buyers in London. There was enough gelignite to blow 1,000 safes.

The men sent to prison were Martin Muldoon, 48, a labourer, Alfred William Price, 57, unemployed, and James Joseph Griffin, 41, a van driver. They pleaded guilty.



*The activities of Soviet "trawlers" along the North American coasts and in areas used for Allied naval operations has caused concern at inter-Governmental level and to public opinion. Our picture shows a trawler which was recently in the West Atlantic. On the superstructure can be seen radio apparatus not usually required for fishing expeditions.*

### REPLIES TO ADVERTISERS

Our readers are particularly invited to mention the *Security Gazette* when they make enquiries in response to advertisements.



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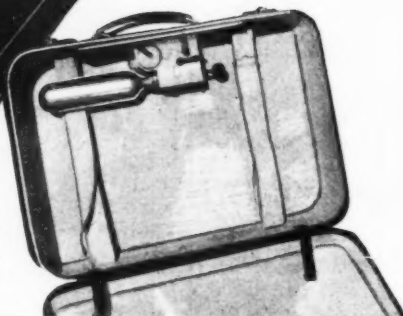
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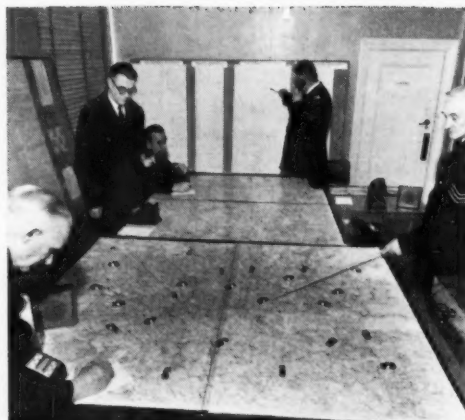
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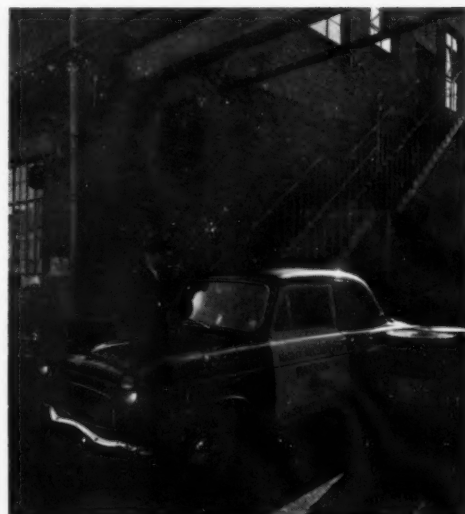
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